

Thousands demonstrate against G-7 summit

MUNICH, Germany (R) — Thousands of people demonstrated in Munich on Saturday in protest against next week's summit in the city of leaders of the Group of Seven (G-7) leading industrial countries. Dozens of left-wing groups from Germany and abroad took part in a rally and march at which speakers accused the West of exploiting the developing world and said Third World debt should be written off. Police estimated the crowd at 8,000, compared with 9,000 police officers deployed in the city for the three-day economic summit, starting on Monday. Cars were searched at checkpoints on roads leading into Munich. Police accompanied the marchers through the city centre, keeping them well away from the Residenz, the former Bavarian royal palace where the leaders of Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States will meet.

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King congratulates Bush

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Saturday sent a cable to U.S. President George Bush to congratulate him in his name and on behalf of the Jordanian people and government on his country's national day. King Hussein stressed in his cable that friendship and understanding between Jordan and the U.S. will be developed on the basis of joint commitment to the principles of freedom, democracy and respect for human rights and dignity. King Hussein said these principles are the same as those represented by the American people and their president Wilson at the beginning of this century when a new world order was being drafted on the eve of World War I, and the same as the principles to which the Arab people were committed following the Great Arab Revolt in 1916. King Hussein expressed confidence that the Arab people's commitment to these principles will continue and that these principles will remain a source of inspiration for the American people in dealing with the international community.

Crown Prince meets Hurd

LONDON (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan received in his residence here British Foreign Office Secretary Douglas Hurd and reviewed with him the latest developments in the Middle East region, bilateral relations and issues of common interest. The meeting was attended by Jordan's Ambassador in London and the British assistant foreign secretary for Middle Eastern affairs. Prince Hassan arrived in the United Kingdom Friday on a several-day visit.

Cabinet holds meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The Cabinet met Saturday under the chairmanship of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and approved Jordan's participation in Izmir International Fair which will be held in the period between Aug. 26 - Sept. 10, 1992. The Cabinet also approved the annual report of the Jordanian Industrial Cities Corporation. It also approved the Kingdom's participation in the meeting of the Olympic committees' presidents.

Rome rejects criticism of Iran

ROME (R) — The Italian government on Saturday distanced itself from an attack on the Iranian government made in a letter signed by nearly 400 Italian members of parliament. The Foreign Ministry said in a statement that its traditionally deep and friendly relations with Tehran remained unchanged. It added that Foreign Minister Vincenzo Scotti would receive the Iranian ambassador once Mr. Scotti returned from next week's European security conference in Helsinki. The statement followed the release on Friday of a letter to the secretary-general of the United Nations, signed by 377 Italian parliamentarians, condemning alleged human rights abuses in Iran and calling for sanctions against Tehran. The signatories also called on Italy to review political and economic ties with Iran, which supplied over 16 per cent of Italian oil imports in 1991.

Libya settles Swiss hospital bills

GENEVA (AP) — Libya's secret service chief paid three million Swiss francs (\$2.2 million) to authorities Friday for overdue medical bills owed by Libyans. Youssef Al Debbi handed over the cheque to Geneva health director Guy-Olivier Segond in a ceremony at the cantonal (state) hospital. There was no immediate explanation from the Libyan embassy on why the country's intelligence chief had been chosen for the task. Mr. Debbi met Mr. Segond at a recent diplomatic reception in Geneva, and the sensitive issue of overdue bills was raised then. Mr. Segond said he was told a few days ago that "an important personality" would settle the debts. Mr. Debbi is close to Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and one of the country's key negotiators on U.N. sanctions.

Sole assassin killed Boudiaf — minister

ALGIERS (Agencies) — One assassin, acting alone, killed Algerian head of state Mohammed Boudiaf, Interior Minister Larbi Belkheir said on Saturday. Mr. Belkheir, head of internal security forces, said on Algerian Radio: "The assassin was arrested... he was alone. He acted all alone."

But he added that the six-man investigation team looking into Monday's assassination would seek to discover whether there was "something behind" the killing.

The inquiry team, including an official from Algeria's human rights monitoring group and another from a human rights league, was to start work officially on Saturday and report within 20 days.

Suspicion has been cast on Muslim fundamentalists as being behind the killing, with several newspapers saying the killer struck for religious motives. Algeria's High Council of State, or collective presidency, which replaced Mr. Boudiaf with veteran independence fighter Ali Kafi, has promised the report will be made public.

In Annaba, where Mr. Boudiaf was gunned last Monday, the prosecutor said on state radio, on Saturday that the killer was a lieutenant with a special intervention unit, deployed to provide security for Mr. Boudiaf.

Just after the killing, the official news agency AFS said the gunman was shot dead, but the presidency said later he had been arrested.

During the assassination, at least one grenade was thrown towards Mr. Boudiaf and an earlier muffled explosion appeared intended to distract security force attention.

Film of the killing provided evidence of a gunman several minutes after Mr. Boudiaf was hit, subsequent reports suggested more than one gunman was involved.

Local newspapers, which mainly pointed the finger at fundamentalists for the killing, reported that about a dozen security force members had been arrested.

Angry mourners at Mr. Boudiaf's burial variously blamed Islamic extremists or supporters of former President Chadli Benjeddid who resigned in January in what diplomats called a disguised coup d'etat.

On Friday, an ayatollah in Iran, sympathetic to Algeria's banned Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), said Islamic militants were behind the killing.

The next day, the Iranian hard-line newspaper Jomhuri Islami said of Mr. Kafi, who has promised to follow Mr. Boudiaf's policies: "He should await the same fate... (as) Boudiaf."

The hostile attitude the coup designers have taken against Algerian Muslims has brought the country close to the ignition point, flames of which would burn statesmen who have chosen an anti-Islamic attitude," the paper said.

Iran brands Algeria's rulers as coup plotters for cancelling the general elections in January which the FIS was poised to win. The pro-government English language daily, the Tehran Times, said Algerian leaders should respect the will of the people and accept the result of the elections. The FIS won the first round of the vote.

Mr. Belkheir, who oversees state of emergency decrees last February amid widespread Muslim fundamentalist unrest, personally denied to Reuters on Saturday that he had been sacked.

"I am at my post and I am continuing (my task)," he said, commenting on a story in the Al Khabar newspaper and persistent rumours in the past 24 hours saying he had been sacked. Later, on Algerian Radio, he said: "They were saying Belkheir was sacked, in flight or arrested.... the question I ask myself is who is behind the rumour and why?"

The former army major-general is widely considered one of Algeria's two most powerful men together with Defence Minister Khaled Nezzar, a member of the presidency.

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Tense soldiers and policemen cordoned off the stadium and barred reporters and photographers from approaching the scene.

A child was among the dead in the first car bomb blast in Lebanon this year. Scores of car bombs killed bystanders during the country's 15-year civil war which ended in 1990.

Investigators believe the attack was carried out by rival organisers of Ms. Mendes' two concerts which were expected to yield hefty profit due to the popularity she enjoys among the Lebanese.

A police spokesman noted that on Thursday a sound grenade was buried at the entrance to the stadium from a speeding car, shattering the glass of ticketing booths but causing no casualties.

The blast started a fire at the main entrance to the stadium, which can accommodate up to 5,000 people, and damaged two other cars. Ambulances, their

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KING MEETS SWAREDDAHAB: His Majesty King Hussein received Saturday at the Royal Court former Sudanese leader and president of the Islamic Da'wa Organisation Abdul Rahman Swareddahab who is on a private visit to Jordan.

At least 48 killed in rocket barrage on Kabul

KABUL (R) — At least 48 persons were killed in Kabul on Saturday afternoon as a guerrilla faction south of the city traded rocket and artillery fire with government troops garrisoned inside the capital.

Saturday's fighting was between the Hezb-e-Islami forces of Gulbuddin Hekmatyar massed to the south of Kabul, and 53rd division forces led by General Rasheed Dostum, based at the ancient fortress of Bala Hissar.

Each side blamed the other for shooting first. Rockets landed near the bus station adjacent to the Ariana hotel, killing 32 persons and injuring at least 50 others according to eyewitnesses.

Government troops said ten men were killed and three injured when six rockets fell on the Kabul garrison.

Reporters saw six bodies, three of them in civilian clothes, lying in pools of blood on the ground outside what appeared to be the garrison's officers' club.

Burning vehicles and grass fires spewed smoke over the scene as soldiers carried the injured to safety.

At least one rocket landed near the communications ministry in the centre of Kabul killing five people, according to Western journalist eyewitnesses.

Mr. Hekmatyar, a fiery Islamic fundamentalist, commands a powerful military and political force in Afghanistan.

His men played an important role in April's Afghan rebel victory after waging 14 years of civil war against successive Soviet-backed communist governments.

Gen. Dostum and his men fought for the government before changing sides in April, paving the way for Kabul's fall.

Mr. Hekmatyar has refused to enter Kabul or play a meaningful role in the country's new Islamic government until Gen. Dostum's men, and others like them, leave the capital.

Bnt Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani and Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood are dependent on the turnout of armed groups from rival guerrilla factions.

Mr. Hekmatyar and his followers say placing trust in what they call "mercenaries of the former communist regime" is an incitement to Afghans who waged Islamic holy war against the government troops.

Other civilians were killed by rockets in the residential district next to the ancient Bala Hissar fortress.

Thirty-five-year-old Samad Khan, father of nine, was killed in his house adjacent to Bala Hissar by an incoming rocket.

Women and children waited in the courtyard of the crumbling residence as the dead man's wife tried to bathe his body of blood from a huge wound in the lower back.

"He (Hekmatyar) is not shelling us," said Gen. Dostum's top man in Kabul, General Abdul Majid, "he is shelling the people of Kabul."

Government troops in the fortress were directing artillery fire against ridges south of the city where they said the Hezb forces firing the incoming rockets were located.

As the shelling intensified, people deserted the city's streets. Reporters ferried badly wounded civilians to hospital in their vehicles because no ambulances were to be found.

So many wounded were being taken to the city's Maidan hospital that new arrivals were laid out on the floor.

"We have no water and no electricity," said one doctor at the hospital. "How can we treat these people?"

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U.N. experts destroy chemical equipment of Iraq

BAGHDAD (R) — The bulk of Iraq's equipment used to manufacture chemical weapons has been destroyed, the head of a U.N. inspection team said on Saturday.

Karen Jansen told reporters her team had accomplished the task of supervising the scrapping "of items intimately involved in the production of chemical bomb making and equipment."

Asked the type of items destroyed, Major Jansen said, "machinery, large lathes, pressers, moulds and mixers."

"All of those items have been destroyed. We verified the last today," Maj. Jansen, the American head of the 16-member team, said.

She said the equipment had been used to "press out bomb parts, chemical bomb parts and all the machinery that went with it."

Iraq is required to destroy its weapons of mass destruction under terms of the ceasefire ending the Gulf war.

The destruction of Iraqi chemical production machinery, the first such operation carried out by a U.N. team, took place at Muthana, a chemical facility 130 kilometres northwest of Baghdad.

The site was used for production of aerial bombs, Maj. Jansen said.

Maj. Jansen said she also had visited four "undeclared sites" that were designated by the executive chairman of the U.N. special commission charged with dismantling Iraq's weapons.

"We found nothing (in these sites) relevant to Security Council Resolution 687," Maj. Jansen said, referring to the Gulf war ceasefire resolution.

Under U.N. supervision, Iraq has almost completed the destruction of two plants to blow up its chemical arsenal.

Maj. Jansen said a lot of the equipment in Muthana was being used to build the two plants.

"Pieces of equipment there have been converted on a temporary basis for the destruction programme and will remain as long as there are chemical agents to destroy," she said.

U.N. experts say the destruction of chemical weapons will start this summer and will continue until the middle of 1993.

Mandela rejects deal to renew reform talks

JOHANNESBURG (Agencies) — Nelson Mandela on Saturday rejected President F.W. de Klerk's call for an urgent meeting to address South Africa's political crisis, saying the white government showed no sign of readiness to relinquish power.

He told a news conference Mr. De Klerk's response on Thursday to African National Congress (ANC) conditions for renewed talks was riddled with inaccuracies, distortions and propaganda.

By responding in the manner he has done, "Mr. F.W. de Klerk has chosen to drive South Africa into a collision course," he said.

"I accordingly see no reason to mislead the public and the international community on the gravity of the crisis facing our country. No good purpose will be served by my meeting with him at this time."

He said a more detailed response to the government would come this week, but his initial reaction maintained a hardline ANC stance after it broke black-white talks and bilateral discussions with the government to protest a June 17 massacre of more than 40 blacks and an impasse in efforts to end white minority rule.

It issued more than a dozen demands for talks to resume, including an international investigation of the massacre and foreign monitors of chronic violence in black townships. The ANC threatened widespread protests, including a national strike, if the demands were not met.

Mr. De Klerk responded Thursday, saying the ANC wanted to seize power instead of negotiating the end of apartheid. At the same time, he offered some concessions in the government's proposals for adopting a new constitution.

Bnt Mr. Mandela said Mr. De Klerk's response "failed to address the crucial issues."

Italy's parliament gives new cabinet green light

ROME (R) — Italy ended three months of political crisis on Saturday when parliament endorsed the new government of Prime Minister Giuliano Amato in a confidence vote.

Mr. Amato, who announced his government last Sunday, is now free to grapple with Italy's growing economic woes after gaining the backing of the upper house earlier this week.

The new administration, Italy's 51st since World War II, was approved in the lower house by 330 votes to 280.

Mr. Amato heads a government with only a narrow majority in both houses after Italy's main parties were badly mauled in April's general election. Some analysts say the new administration is likely to prove short-lived, dubbing it a "summer government."

Mr. Amato earlier told parliament that Italy's role as a major industrial nation was under threat unless it applied the brakes to a runaway budget deficit.

"We risk losing the heart of our productive capacity, Italy risks being no longer able to host primary and secondary sector activity," he said.

"We risk becoming a country of services, games and relaxations, in which organisation is provided by the criminals of the Mafia rather than the state and all of us," he added.

The Italian deficit is expected to reach 160 trillion lire (\$139 million) this year, the European Community's largest. It will have to be cut by 30 billion lire (\$26 million) just to bring it in line with the previous government's target deficit.

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Nunn demands probe into Vincennes affair

WASHINGTON (AP) — The chairman of the Senate's Armed Services Committee demanded Friday an investigation of allegations that the U.S. navy "deliberately misled Congress" about the location of an American warship when it shot down an Iranian civilian jetliner four years ago.

And the Defence Department acknowledged that the ship, the USS Vincennes, was in Iranian waters when it shot down the Iranian Airbus, killing all 290 people on board.

"I believe that it is very important that there be an expeditious inquiry into these serious allegations and that a full blown investigation be conducted if necessary," opposition Democrat Sam Nunn said in a letter to Defence Secretary Richard Cheney.

Mr. Nunn's call for a full investigation came after a statement this week by Admiral William Crowe, former chairman of the military Joint Chiefs of Staff, that the USS Vincennes was in Iranian waters when it shot down the Iranian Airbus, killing all 290 people on board.

Officials said the ship fired at the airliner in the mistaken belief that it was an attacking Iranian fighter.

The commander of the Vincennes, senior navy and Pentagon officials and President Ronald Reagan himself, all said at the time of the incident that the Vincennes was in international waters, not waters controlled by Iran.

U.S. officials blamed Iran for the incident at the time, saying the Vincennes had been operating in international waters and was defending neutral ships from Iranian gunboats when the unidentified aircraft appeared on its radar screens.

But in a statement issued by the Pentagon Friday, a spokesman said the ship was in Iranian waters at least part of the time.

"The Vincennes entered Iranian waters only as a result of its efforts to defend itself from the attack of Iranian gunboats as it transited international waters," the statement said.

"Manoeuvring required to exercise its right of self-defence was clearly permissible under international law," said Pentagon public affairs official Jan Walker. "The Airbus was engaged during these defensive manoeuvres."

Mr. Nunn said Adm. Crowe's statement, made on a Wednesday night television news programme, contradicted testimony made at the time by administration officials in several important respects.

Other than the location of the Vincennes when the Iranian airliner was destroyed, Mr. Nunn said, it also appears Congress was not advised of the capture of the Iranian minelayer Rakish, other instances of the use of force against Iranian units "or of the practice of provoking Iranian

Turkey lifts ban on parties dissolved in 1980 coup

ANKARA (R) — Turkey has scrapped a ban on political parties dissolved by the generals of the 1980 army coup, removing one of the last traces of their three-year rule which ended political mayhem and street violence of the 1970s.

The cabinet decision published in the official gazette also allowed the disbanded Democratic Party (DP) to reopen 31 years after its prime minister and two cabinet members were hanged for treason by the then-ruling military junta.

Those members of the dissolved parties "who are still alive" are now allowed to reorganise, the Gazette said.

The ousting of the DP government in 1960 was the first of three military takeovers to crush political chaos in Turkey, the second one in 1971 and the last one in 1980 which ended a decade of left-right violence that cost some 5,000 lives.

The parties dissolved in 1980 were the centre-right Justice Party (AP), Social Democrat Republican People's Party, Nationalist Movement Party (MHP) and the Islamist National Salvation Party (MSP).

Their leaders and many of their politicians, who stood trial at military courts during three years of army rule, are still politically active today.

The generals who took power in 1980 later set the stage for a military-supervised return to democracy, with elections in 1983 won by centre-right Motherland Party formed by President Turgut Ozal, then prime minister.

Motherland lost power in the October 1991 elections to Prime Minister Suleyman Demirel's centre-right True Path Party (DYP), which formed a coalition

with the Social Democrat Populist Party (SHP).

Pro-Kurdish party may be closed

Turkey's top prosecutor filed a suit on Friday demanding the closure of the pro-Kurdish People's Labour Party (HEP) on grounds of actions against the Turkish constitution, Anadolu news agency said.

The court of appeals prosecutor told the constitutional court, whose decision cannot be quashed, that "the HEP has become the focus of illegal political activities and was involved in actions against the state and territorial integrity," Anadolu said.

"This reflects the level of democracy in Turkey: Freeing all formerly banned parties and banning a legal party on the same day," Ahmet Karatas, HEP secretary general, told Reuters.

He was referring to the law passed on Friday.

The HEP was created in June 1990 by the 11 Kurdish deputies dismissed from the Social Democrat Party because they had attended a Kurdish conference in Paris.

Turks say it has links with the outlawed separatist Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), whose eight-year-old insurgency for a Kurdish state in Turkey's south-east has claimed about 4,000 lives.

Most of the former HEP members, who won entry to parliament in an general election under SHP banner last October, resigned from the SHP and formed Freedom and Equality Party (OZEP) in June.

Mr. Karatas said the OZEP planned to merge with the HEP soon.

Armed groups clash with police in southern Egypt

CAIRO (Agencies) — Armed clashes between Muslim extremists and police in southern Egypt Friday left one dead and four policemen wounded, according to reports in Cairo state-owned newspapers.

Weekly Akhbar Al Yom said a car driven by a Muslim extremist collided with a truck while trying to escape police arrest, killing Mohammed Abu Zeid who took part in the chase in the ancient Egyptian city of Luxor, about 420 kilometres south of Cairo.

The extremist fled, leaving one police officer and a soldier wounded.

Two homemade bombs planted by Muslim extremists exploded near an ancient temple in the city two weeks ago. Police at the time said there was no damage and no one was hurt.

In Dairut, Muslim extremists opened fire on policemen guarding an Anglican church, injuring

two soldiers. The wounded were hospitalised in critical condition, according to the newspaper Al-Ahram. Dairut is 260 kilometres south of Cairo.

No arrests were reported in Dairut either.

Dayrout is the focus of a huge police operation in search of Muslim extremists blamed for a series of attacks which killed at least 18 people over the past two months.

The sources said it occurred as authorities decided to scale down a 5,000-strong force of paramilitary units that had been conducting a two-week sweep in which some 300 suspected militants were detained.

"This incident may reverse the decision to reduce the forces," one senior official said.

Security sources earlier said more than 450 people had been arrested but officials say many are released after questioning.

Security sweep continues in Kabul

KABUL (R) — Afghan government troops backed by tanks drove hundreds of armed men from Kabul on Friday as a security sweep of the capital continued for a second straight day.

"Getting rid of these men was our hope and our demand," said Haji Zahir Gul, a Kabul resident. "Now there will be no more looting."

Afghan rebel forces captured Kabul on April 25 after 14 years of civil war.

Since then, a motley band of rival guerrilla bands and former government militia forces have occupied the capital, defying central control and terrorising residents.

Street fighting, robbery, kidnapping and murder have become commonplace.

Few shots were fired and there were no reports of casualties as government troops arrived in force at private homes and public buildings on Friday to evict the armed bands squatting inside.

Earlier this week, the country's leadership council, led by President Burhanuddin Rabbani, announced that joint forces of the defence and interior ministries would clear the city of armed groups.

The operation began on Thursday amid considerable confusion, with government forces killing two men and wounding two others.

Afghan guerrilla groups support the decision to clear the city, but individual commanders are intensely critical of the way the operation is being carried out.

"This was supposed to be a joint effort with representatives of all Jihadi (Afghan guerrilla) parties participating," said guerrilla commander Akhtar Mohammad Tolwak. "But only the forces of former government collaborators were visible yesterday."

The commander was referring to troops from the 53rd, 70th and 80th divisions, who dominated the sweep in Kabul on Thursday.

Those divisions are led by turncoat generals who fought for the former communist regime until this spring, when they defected, paving the way for a guerrilla victory.

The mere presence of these forces in Kabul irritates some hardline Afghan leaders.

"This operation has been grievously mismanaged by the

minister of defence," said Zabiullah Mojaddidi, whose father resigned as the first president of the New Islamic government of Afghanistan last Sunday, after serving two months.

"There has been no joint force, there have been needless deaths, including one of our men... the defence minister must answer for it."

Defence Minister Ahmad Shah Masood was not available for comment. Interior Minister Ahmad Shah acknowledged there had been problems in the first day of the operation and promised to get all parties involved.

But the troops involved in Friday's sweep seemed no more representative than those coming to the streets on Thursday.

The three government divisions were much in evidence, backed by troops personally loyal to the defence minister. Members of other parties were identifiable in token numbers only.

The sweep is expected to take up to 10 days.

Men evicted from the city are being sent to assigned barracks areas outside the capital.

They are being allowed to take light weapons like pistols, Kalashnikov assault rifles and rocket-propelled grenade launchers with them.

Tanks, canons and other heavy weapons are being confiscated by the government forces.

Britain pledges more aid

Britain announced Friday it will give £7.55 million (\$14.42 million) to help refugees returning to Afghanistan from Pakistan and Iran.

Baroness Chalker, minister for overseas development, said the aid was in response to an appeal from U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali who visited London on Thursday.

She said £4 million (\$7.6 million) would go to the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees; £1 million (\$1.9 million) to the International Committee of the Red Cross; £500,000 (\$955,000) to the U.N. office coordinating mine-clearing in Afghanistan; £1.6 million (\$3 million) for the British voluntary agency, Afghanistanaid, and £450,000 (\$859,500) to other non-governmental organisations.

New Jersey man pleads guilty in case linked to Israeli scandal

NEW YORK (AP) — A New Jersey man has pleaded guilty in a kickback scheme involving an Israeli engineer linked to a military contracting scandal in his homeland and the Pratt and Whitney division of United Technologies Corporation.

Pratt and Whitney is the second largest U.S. company employed in the case, which has rocked the Israeli air force.

General Electric Company was suspended briefly last month from U.S. military jet-engine contracts because of its alleged involvement. General Electric is trying to negotiate a settlement with the U.S. Justice Department.

Benjamin Sonnenschein, 67, pleaded guilty Thursday in U.S. district court in Brooklyn to fraud charges involving two New Jersey businesses that investigators said he operated at the direction of Israeli engineer Yoram Ingbir.

The two companies received computer software contracts from Pratt and Whitney. Investigators said Pratt and Whitney was directed to award the contracts to the companies at the order of Israeli air force General Rami Datan.

Gen. Datan is serving a 13-year

prison sentence after pleading guilty last year to extorting money from U.S. defence contractors.

In the Justice Department's civil case against General Electric, Mr. Ingbir is identified as the conduit for kickbacks from G.E. to Datan.

According to court papers, Mr. Sonnenschein funnelled \$500,000 received from Pratt between 1988 and 1990 to Ingbir.

The documents do not say what Mr. Ingbir did with the money and he has not been charged with any crime.

Mr. Sonnenschein pleaded guilty to two fraud counts for bringing \$50,000 cash to Switzerland without reporting it to the government, and for failing to disclose \$261,000 he kept in a Swiss bank account.

Under his agreement, he will receive probation, pay a \$50,000 fine and forfeit \$2.8 million.

Mr. Sonnenschein is described in court papers as a relative of Mr. Ingbir.

The Sonnenschein companies received \$5.3 million from Pratt and Whitney at Gen. Datan's direction, the New York Times reported Friday.

Women consolidate position in Knesset

TEL AVIV (AP) — The national election that swept the left-centre Labour Party to power carried with it 11 women, the most to serve in Israel's parliament in more than three decades.

The new legislators do not see it as a victory for feminism but as a sign of the times.

"With the fall of communism, the whole world is moving generally in a more liberal direction," said Labour's Yael Dayan, daughter of the late General Moshe Dayan.

"In a militant, macho world, they can say politics is not for women the way fighting wars is not for women," she explained. "In a world that has to feed people and worry about issues like health care, there isn't an excuse to push us into corners."

While the story of Israeli politics cannot be told without the late Golda Meir, she remains the only woman to have been prime minister.

Mrs. Meir — described by admirers and detractors alike as "the only man in the cabinet" — made her name during the 1940s and became Israel's fourth prime minister in 1969.

Since then, only three other women have even held cabinet posts. None has been mayor of a major city. And never has a woman chaired the parliament's important security and foreign affairs committee.

Part of the reason for women's lack of success is that ultra-orthodox Jews, as well as conservative Arab citizens, oppose any public role for women.

Late last year, an ultra-orthodox member of parliament, Rabbi Moshe Feldman, urged that women be barred from the parliament — and from voting.

The lack of high-profile military careers has been another problem. Although women serve in the army, they are barred from the combat roles that have catapulted several generals to political success.

Women are also victims of an election system where Israelis do not vote for individual candidates, but for party slates dominated by men. Several efforts to elect a women's slate have failed.

This year, part of the reason women made gains in the 120-seat Knesset, or parliament, was the Labour had a quota requiring one woman among each 10 candidates.

That got four women Labourites seats, including Ms. Dayan, a 53-year-old writer and peace activist. Three women elected on the leftist Meretz list, one on the Communist slate, two on the right-wing Likud, and one with the far-right Tzomet.

The last time women made such a strong showing was in 1955, when 12 served in the parliament, according to the Israel Women's Network, a political lobby group.

In the previous parliament, dominated by the right wing, there were just eight women, a far cry from the 11 women elected in 1992.

This year's 11 women legislators remain a small minority in the parliament. Eight are newcomers, including a union activist, an investment counselor, a real estate broker and two teachers.

Among the veterans, Dr. Namir, 61, a Labourite who has been in parliament since 1973, is expected to get her third committee chairmanship. Shulamit Aloni, 62, could get a cabinet post, as expected, her Meretz faction joins the Labour government.

Alice Shalvi, head of the Israeli Women's Network, argues that quotas should be instituted for all party lists and for government jobs to assure women fair representation since they represent more than half the 4.5 million population. But she admits it is an uphill battle.

While some of the new legislators favour forming a women's caucus to advance their goals, Ms. Aloni is opposed.

"The ultra-orthodox like the women to be in 'ezrat nashim,' she said, a reference to the segregated women's section of a synagogue, "I favour joint action with men."

But Mr. Fulcheri said his people were going about their work normally. "Many of them do not know the situation as well as I do and are probably nervous."

Secretary-General Boutros Ghali said on Tuesday that U.N. guards and aid workers would stay in Iraq despite the expiration of an agreement guaranteeing their presence.

U.N. officials say the memorandum, first signed in April 1991 and renewed at the end of last year, is designed to provide humanitarian aid to the most vulnerable groups in Iraq labouring under the disastrous effects of the Gulf war and 23-month-old U.N. sanctions.

Mr. Fulcheri, an Italian, said the talks would continue on Saturday with the "Iraqis insisting on certain things and we on others." But he refused to give any details on the points still under discussion. "We've to go about it in a constructive and positive manner."

Discussions on renewing a pact allowing guards and relief workers to be stationed in Iraq started last May and Mr. Fulcheri said they would continue until an agreement was reached.

Asked whether the two sides were facing obstacles Mr. Fulcheri said, "there isn't any main obstacle."

The existing agreement allowing the presence of some 600 aid workers and 500 guards to carry on humanitarian effort in Iraq expired at the end of June.

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Sergeant faces court-martial in alleged Gulf war rape

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — A serviceman charged with raping a fellow reservist during the Gulf war may be called back to active duty to face a military hearing, the army said Friday.

A general court convening authority will decide next week whether to recall Sgt. David Martinez to Fort Bliss, Texas, where he faces the possible court-martial, army spokeswoman Jean Offutt said.

Ms. Offutt said the military will first conduct a hearing to decide if the charges against Mr. Martinez are valid and worthy of going to a general court-martial.

The army on Thursday charged Mr. Martinez with four counts of falsifying official statements, one count of forcible sodomy and one count of indecent assault in a

Jan. 19, 1991, incident involving Jacqueline Ortiz.

If convicted, Mr. Martinez could be sentenced to 40 years in prison, forfeiture of pay and allowances, a reduction in rank and a dishonourable discharge, Ms. Offutt said.

Mr. Martinez's lawyer, Richard Utman, would not comment on Mr. Martinez's status.

"I'm sorry they charged him. It's a shame that they did," he said Friday from his Albuquerque office. "But the army has asked me not to discuss the specifics of the case, and I'm going to comply with their request."

Mr. Martinez could not be reached for comment. Mr. Utman said he did not know where his client was.

Earlier this week, Ms. Ortiz was among a group of women

who testified before a U.S. Senate panel about alleged sexual attacks in the military.

In seeking counselling from the veterans administration, she testified she found the institution to be unresponsive. "I would rather have been shot by a bullet and killed that way than this," she said.

"I don't think the charges could have come at a better time," Ms. Ortiz said Thursday. "I'm flabbergasted. I knew that something would happen once the truth was known, but I didn't know to what extent."

Ms. Ortiz said the charges against Mr. Martinez renewed her faith in the military's justice system.

"It's a year past due, but... it is very good news," she said. "My

battle has paid off. The only thing I wanted was the truth to be known, and now it's up to the court."

Ms. Ortiz said Mr. Martinez summoned her to his tent in the Saudi desert and forced her to perform oral sex. Both were members of Delta Company of the 52nd Engineering Battalion.

The army investigated her complaint and initially concluded the sex was consensual and reprimanded both of them. But the army reopened its investigation at the urging of U.S. Rep. Bill Richardson of New Mexico earlier this year.

The army subsequently ruled that Mr. Martinez forced Ms. Ortiz to engage in sexual acts, and the findings were sent to Mr. Martinez's unit for further action.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 77311-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
17:20	Michael Vaillant
17:45	Des Chiffres et Des Lettres
18:10	La Chanson Aux Chansons
18:30	News French
19:15	Magazine E - M
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Wings
21:10	Documentary
22:00	News in English
22:30	Naked Under Captivity
PRAYER TIMES	
05:54	Fajr
07:24	(Sunrise) Dhuha
12:29	Dhuhr
15:29	Asr
18:29	Maghrib
21:22	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swedish Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637285	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel.	
637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terresanta Church Tel. 622556	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 625383, Tel. 625453	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772201	
Syrian Orthodox Church Tel. 771751	
Assyrian International Church Tel. 683326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 823824, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be relatively hot and windy with be northwesterly moderate. In Aqaba, winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
MIL/MAX TEMP.	
Amman	18/24
Aqaba	25/40
Deserts	17/37
Jordan Valley	21/37

JORDAN TIMES DAILY

Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 34, Aqaba 39. Humidity readings: Amman 25 per cent, Aqaba 21 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Abdul Majid Al Sha'er 791405
Dr. Amr Al Ashab 602377
Dr. Mahmoud Amer 888883
Dr. Nidal Al Dahab 692625
Firas pharmacy 661912
Fardous pharmacy 778336
Al Asma pharmacy 636730
Nairokhi pharmacy 623672
Al Salam pharmacy 636735
Yacoub pharmacy 644945
Shamsat pharmacy 676560

IRBID:

Dr. Ahmad Abu Bakir (—)
Al Sharaa's pharmacy 775825

ZARQA:

Dr. Samir Al Lawzi (—)
Khalifa pharmacy 985417

Food Control Centre 637111
Civil Defence Department 661111
Civil Defence Immediate 630341
Civil Defence Emergency 199
Rescue Police 192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade 391228
Blood Bank 771221
Highway Police 843402
Traffic Police 896300
Public Security Department 63021
Police Complaints 602800
Price Complaints 661176
Water and Sewerage Complaints 897467

Amman Municipality 787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance) 121
Overseas Calls 010230
Central Amman Telephone 601030
Repairs 623101
Abdali Telephone Repairs 661101
Jordan Television 773111
Radio Jordan 774111
Water Authority 620101
Jordan Electricity Authority 615615
Electric Power 636381
RJ Flight Information 08-53300
Queen Alia Int. Airport 08-53300

EMERGENCIES

HOSPITALS

Cooperative exhibition opens with plastic flowers, mother of pearl and other products

AMMAN (J.T.) — Two hundred and fifty Jordanian cooperatives displayed their wares Saturday at the opening of three-day exhibition in celebration of International Cooperatives Day.

Deputy Premier and Transport Minister Ali Suheimat opened the exhibition on behalf of Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker and toured the various sectors inspecting items on display. Jordan Cooperatives Organisation (JCO) Director-General Jamal Al Bedour said that the JCO organised event aims at highlighting the role of agricultural and other types of cooperatives and underlining their role in the community.

This exhibition also aims at encouraging cooperatives to serve their communities more, Dr. Bedour noted.

On display are embroideries, clothing, artificial flowers, wood and pottery work and agricultural, leather and mother of pearl products.

According to Dr. Bedour, among the participants are women cooperative societies in

Jordan. According to Dr. Bedour Jordan has 56,000 registered members of 568 cooperative societies. In addition, there are 95 housing cooperative societies, totalling 8,000 members. He said that cooperatives in Jordan are involved in the production of goods ranging from table salt to dairy products to handicrafts.

Dr. Bedour said that 50 per cent of the chicken sold on the local markets is produced by the cooperatives, which also produce 90 per cent of the country's demand for table eggs, 80 per cent of the fresh milk and 90 per cent of the salt.

The JCO, which supervises the work of Jordanian cooperatives, provided equipment for farming and small industries at reasonable prices.

Attending the opening of the exhibition was Minister of Agriculture Dr. Faysal Khasawneh and members of Arab and foreign diplomatic missions as well as members of cooperative societies in Jordan.



Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport Ali Suheimat inspects the products displayed at the opening of the International Cooperatives Day exhibition.

New U.S. embassy opens

AMMAN (R) — The United States opened a \$47 million embassy complex in Amman on Saturday — one of the biggest structures in the Jordanian capital.

Ambassador Roger Harrison officially opened the sprawling complex in an evening ceremony commemorating the 216th anniversary of U.S. Independence. The event included ice cream from the United States for the 2,000 invited guests.

Construction of the complex, built on 14 acres of land in Amman's richest neighbourhood, was begun in 1988 but work came to a halt when U.S. supervisors were flown out of

the country during the Gulf crisis, the embassy said.

The ultra-high-security complex, surrounded by stone walls, replaces a modest office building in central Amman. It was commissioned after sweeping safety reviews of U.S. missions abroad following a 1983 suicide bomb in Beirut which killed 241 U.S. marines.

Jordanian newspapers on Saturday reported a traditional call from the Jordan Arab Nationalist Democratic Alliance, a coalition of leftist parties, for Jordanians to boycott the ceremony in protest against U.S. policies in the Middle East.

HOME NEWS IN BRIEF

Premier visits army HQ

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Saturday visited the Armed Forces General Headquarters where he had a meeting with Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb. The meeting dealt with issues of concern to the Armed Forces.

Minister, French envoy hold talks

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Izzeddin Al Khatib met Saturday with French Ambassador to Jordan Denis Bauchard. Mr. Tammimi and Mr. Bauchard discussed Jordanian-French relations and ways of enhancing them.

Jordanian, Iraqi labour unions to meet

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation representing the Jordanian Federation of Labour Unions left Amman for Baghdad Saturday on a five-day visit to Iraq. The delegation, which is led by Secretary General of the Federation Khaled Shreim, will hold talks with the president and members of the Iraqi Labour Unions Federation on bilateral relations and ways of enhancing them.

ESCWA to hold session in Amman

AMMAN (J.T.) — The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) will hold its 16th session in Amman Aug. 30 to Sept. 4, executive secretary of the organisation, Tayseer Abdul Jabbar announced during his address to the United Nations Economic and Social Council in New York last week. A spokesman told the Jordan Times that delegates from the 13-member organisation "will debate economic and social development and will strive to promote regional cooperation as envisioned by ESCWA." Dr. Abdul Jabbar in his address last Wednesday, said that while the region continued to feel the "after-shocks" of the Gulf crisis and ensuing war, there were positive features which need to be cultivated and used "as our starting point to enhance regional cooperation."

WHAT'S GOING ON

EXHIBITIONS

★ Exhibition of paintings by Muhammad Al Jaouh at Baladna Art Gallery.

★ Plastic art exhibition by Iraqi artist Muhammad Al Libdawi at Alia Art Gallery.

FILM

★ Exhibition of paintings, Arab calligraphy, handicrafts and traditional costumes at the University of Jordan's Faculty of Education.

★ Palestinian film entitled "Ghassan... the Word, the Rifle" at the Scientific and Cultural Centre of Abdul Hameed Shuman Foundation — 6 p.m.



Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday attends the graduation ceremony of occupational therapists at the College for Occupational Therapy (Petra photo)

First occupational therapists graduate

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Saturday attended a graduation ceremony at the College of Occupational Therapy of the first group of occupational therapists and distributed diplomas and awards to the graduates.

The graduates have had three-year training courses in occupational therapy at the college which was established at the Farah Royal Jordanian Rehabilitation Centre at the King Hussein Medical Centre by the National Medical Institution and the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS).

Addressing the graduation ceremony Princess Majida Raad, chairperson of the college board, reviewed the development of the college over the years and the training courses given to the therapists.

She thanked the private and public organisations for their meaningful contributions to the

college. The college of Occupational Therapy aims at admitting students regularly in order to provide the country with the acutely needed occupational therapists for the rehabilitation services.

Occupational therapy is the treatment of physical and psychiatric conditions of patients through specific, selected activities in order to help the individual reach his maximum level of function and independence in all aspects of the daily life following illness or injury, according to college officials.

They said that the therapists form part of the multi-disciplinary treatment team, working together with doctors, nurses, psychologists, social workers, physiotherapists and others in the field of rehabilitation.

According to Dr. Yousef Qusous, director of the Royal Medical Services, the college will stay for three years at the King

Hussein Medical Centre, before moving to the University of Jordan.

GUVS Executive President Abdullah Al Khatib said in an address that the college was founded to provide Jordan with the required cadres of skilled therapists to offer urgent service to the handicapped.

Dr. Khatib said occupation therapy services should be available at hospitals and for the community in social services departments, social schools as well as in centres run by voluntary organisations.

Officials say research has shown that Jordan was in immediate need of at least 150 occupational therapists.

Dr. Joseph Postel, the outgoing director, delivered a speech giving details about the courses and their value to the society.

The Queen presented Mr. Postel with a token gift in recognition of his services.

Traveller crisis persists; Palestinians crowd reservation centres

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Compared to other Palestinians planning to cross the Jordan River to the occupied West Bank and Gaza this summer, Ibrahim Zuhair did not have much of a problem.

He made his reservations for the cumbersome trip last June while working in Saudi Arabia. The purpose of his visit to the Yaqub Hashem Reservation Centre in the Sports City area on Saturday was to find out if he could leave on the reserved date.

After three hours of waiting, he was told he could.

But for other Palestinians who did not have his foresight or did not have the means of making early reservations, the waiting at the centre lasts much more than three hours; the information they receive is much less positive.

For them, it involves a four-day waiting period after which they are assigned travelling dates that prove to be too late for many. Twenty-six year old Ibrahim Qwader will not be able to spend more than a week of his one-month vacation with his family in Gaza.

An assistant pharmacist who has to be back on the job in Saudi Arabia by the beginning of August, Qwader cannot set out on his trip before July 22. During the seven days which he will spend in his occupied homeland, he will have to renew his travel permit from the Israeli authorities.

"And that," he says, "is a whole new concern."

But for 18-year-old Palestinian student Sameh Shteiwi, the major

worry is still to find reservations at a convenient time.

The problem for the thousands of Palestinians planning to visit the West Bank and Gaza this summer started when the Israeli authorities earlier this year arbitrarily reduced the number of travellers allowed to enter the occupied territories from 4,000 to 1,750 a day, says Adel Irshaid, director of the Department of Palestinian Affairs at the Foreign Ministry.

It was compounded when the Jordanian government decided to ease the hardships of Palestinian pilgrims returning from Mecca in early June by giving them priority over ordinary travellers.

Seven thousand pilgrims, who had gathered at the Pilgrims City in Shouoeh, were allowed to cross the river without previous reservations. Hundreds of other Palestinian pilgrims from Arab areas occupied in 1948 and who carry Israeli passports took the seats of ordinary travellers when the Israeli permitted to travel daily in the allowed daily quota. What that meant, says Irshaid, is that 7,000 were delayed.

Irshaid says that the number of people permitted to travel daily should be raised to 4,000 in order to end the suffocating congestion at the reservations centres in the country.

He says that King Hussein Bridge and Prince Mohammad Bridge can easily handle 4,000 passengers a day, but the shots on this matter are called by Israel which has closed Prince Mohammad Bridge to passengers.

Israel has recently raised the number of permits from 1,750 to 1,950 daily. This number, howev-

er, is still too low to meet the high demand for travel permits, says Irshaid.

On Saturday, the earliest reservation date was July 28. Palestinians at the Yaqub Hashem Centre complained that the delay is costing them precious vacation time and creating many inconveniences for them and for relatives with whom they are staying.

Naser Al Deen Al Masri, who works in the United Arab Emirates, has already wasted 45 days, but will be able to leave his cousin's house along with his wife and two children on July 22.

The Department of Palestinian Affairs is aware of the hardships the delay is causing many people but can do nothing to increase the daily number of passengers allowed to cross the river, says Irshaid.

He says his department has contacted what he referred to as the "proper channels" in an attempt to raise the quota but the number remains unchanged.

In the meanwhile, Sameh Shteiwi is running out of time. Unless he succeeds in getting reservation within the coming two weeks, he will have to wait another year before returning to his family and sick mother in Nablus.

By the end of the month, Shteiwi needs to be back in Romania where he works and studies.

"One cannot go to his own country," he says as he walks away towards the locked gate of the Yaqub Hashem Centre where other Palestinians were converging.

JD 58m project to set up eight new needed hospitals

By Mamdouh Hawamidieh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The Ministry of Health has embarked on the implementation of a JD 58-million project designed to set up eight new hospitals in the Kingdom and provide 757 new beds that can partially cope with the ever growing demand on medical services.

Dr. Mustafa Barmawi, director of the Hospitals Department at the Health Ministry, told the Jordan Times that the new hospitals were badly needed as there are shortages in the number of beds, particularly in the northern region of the Kingdom which is in need of at least 910 beds at present.

"The Kingdom is actually in

need of at least 6,942 hospital beds, and the Health Ministry is doing all it can to meet these needs," said Dr. Barmawi.

The Health Ministry, in its drive to introduce improvements, has divided the country into three zones: North, Central and Southern zones, said Dr. Barmawi.

Referring to the immediate project, he said that in the first phase the Health Ministry would build eight hospitals in Karak, Roseifa, Kura, at the Jordan University of Science and Technology (JUST) and the new paediatric hospital and the emergency hospital at Al Bashir Hospital in Amman, in addition to the Gynaecology and Obstetrics hospital in Maan and a similar one in Irbid.

Dr. Barmawi said that the expansion plan entails building a hospital in Ramtha and a special clinic at the Ghor Al Safi Hospital, in the south.

Dr. Barmawi said that the Health Ministry finalised the 1993-1997 five-year development plan to meet the shortages in hospital beds and improving the medical services.

He said that the measures, which are to be implemented within this plan, entail building five hospitals in Bani-Kananah, Jerash, Ajloun, the northern and central Jordan Valley regions and Mafrqa, at the over-all cost of JD 27 million.

The plan aims at raising to 19 hospitals beds for every 10,000 inhabitants in the country.

WAJ campaigns to save water

By Elia Nasrallah
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Despite the fact that the water situation in Jordan is relatively good this year, the Water Authority in Jordan (WAJ) will soon launch a campaign to spread awareness among members of the public on the need to rationalise water consumption in domestic, industrial and other areas, according to Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary-General Mr. Mutazz Al Bilbeisi.

In the first phase of the campaign, WAJ will air television and radio programmes, hold seminars and distribute leaflets and posters calling on the public to save water, Mr. Bilbeisi told the Jordan Times.

The first phase also entails lectures to be delivered to women

unions to help spread the awareness campaign among housewives, said Mr. Bilbeisi.

The second phase of the campaign, Mr. Bilbeisi noted, would include constructive and practical ideas on how to reduce water consumption by introducing changes and adjustments such as water-saving toilet flushes and water taps that save water.

As present, WAJ is following a system that looks effective in the distribution of water to various districts of Amman and other regions of the Kingdom, said Mr. Bilbeisi.

He said that WAJ might be forced in the coming month to announce a water distribution programme as it has done several times in the past. But so far it seems that the present system is working well except in certain isolated areas in southern Amman, he noted.

On the whole, WAJ has matters under control and is dealing with all waterpipe leakages and other complaints, he added. WAJ has already distributed posters and leaflets to schools, governments offices, mosques and churches in the hope of enlisting the help of all people to make the current campaign a success, noted Mr. Bilbeisi.

He said that the campaign is likely to intensify with the opening of the school year in August.

Unusual heavy rains and snow in Jordan this past winter, filled the country's dams for the first time in their history. But that water, in the reservoirs behind the dams, especially the King Talal Dam near Jerash, is used mainly for irrigating farmlands in the Jordan Valley region where most of the country's food is produced.

Libyans sign accord with HCST to cooperate in scientific research

AMMAN (Petra) — A Libyan delegation representing the Scientific Research Institute in Tripoli ended talks here Saturday with an agreement on bilateral cooperation in science with the Higher Council for Science and Technology (HCST).

The head of the Libyan team, Dr. Taher Juheimi, who signed the agreement with HCST secretary general Abdullah Toukan, said that the two sides agreed to launch cooperation and exchange expertise and information related to science and technology.

The two sides agreed to organise scientific seminars to be attended by teams from Jordan and Libya, and to conduct joint research especially in matters re-

lated to the development of Badia and desert settlements, as well as topics related to ensuring food security, said Mr. Juheimi.

Furthermore, he said, the two sides agreed on a system for coordinating cooperation between the two country's scientific research institutes. Arab scientific action requires increased financial and political support on the part of the scientific research institutions, Mr. Juheimi said following the signing of the agreement.

Mr. Juheimi added that because research in Arab countries is similar, there was a great need for research institutes in the Arab World to combine their talents and resources.

Dr. Juheimi said that he conducted interesting and useful discussions with HCST specialists and directors of various units that led to the signing of the agreement.

The talks showed clearly that Jordanian scientist's were concerned with pursuing contacts and cooperation with the Libyan research institutions, he said.

Referring to the Libyan institute, Dr. Juheimi said it was established in 1989 as a catalyst for research in various fields. So far, the institute has been conducting research in food security, economics and education fields and holding a number of scientific seminars, attended by national and Arab researchers.

Education Ministry opens student camp

AL QASR (Petra) — The Ministry of Education Saturday opened a three-week summer camp, at the Al Rabbah agricultural school in southern Jordan for students from Ministry of Education schools.

One-hundred twenty students from secondary classes are taking part in the activities that include paving yards, building retaining walls and constructing walls around schools in the Rabbah area, according to the director of the education department in Qasr district, Saleh Tarawneh.

Mr. Tarawneh, noted that the students will be involved in socio-

economic schemes to benefit the students and their communities. The students will also be taken on tours of cultural and archaeological sites.

In his address at the opening of the camp activities, Mr. Tarawneh urged participants to set a good example for other students by exerting their best efforts to serve their community.

According to Mahmoud Al Faraya, the camp director, the programme also has lectures, cultural competitions and sports, in addition to social activities, documentary films and trips.

The Ministry of Education in

Amman announced that other summer camps for male and female students are now open for the summer holidays in various regions.

The ministry said that 18,000 students from 132 schools will be doing useful activities at the camps during the holidays. The camps, which will remain open for four weeks, also offer students the chance to exercise their skills in art and sports.

The ministry added that teachers will be supervising students activities, and that the school club libraries will also be open during the holidays.

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The programme is as follows:

(All films are subtitled in Arabic)
(admission free)

Monday, July 6, 1992:

"Akahige (Red Beard)"

Directed by Akira Kurosawa, black & white, 184 minutes.

Tuesday, July 7, 1992:

"Children on the Island"

Directed by Yoshitaka Asama, colour, 129 minutes.

Wednesday, July 8, 1992:

"The Ugetsu Story"

Directed by Kenji Mizoguchi, black & white, 97 minutes.

Thursday, July 9, 1992:

"The Yamashita Story"

Directed by Soken Matsubayashi, colour, 115 minutes.

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Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975

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The ball is in our court

NOW THAT the Jordan Press Association has chosen a new president, Mr. Suleiman Qudah, hopes are rekindled that the association will rethink its role and assume a more aggressive and vigorous posture in pursuing what is expected of it. Being the body that groups all men and women involved in news reporting, news analyses and the formulation of public opinions, the association needs to redraw its mandate in order to strengthen and increase its input in and influence on the country's political life.

Jordan, as part of a changing world and an increasingly volatile Middle East, is feeling its way through by adopting a democratic form of government and by engaging itself in the quest for a lasting peace in the region. Both endeavours require increased intellectual input from journalists, columnists and writers. The association should put this task at the top of its list of priorities. For that it needs to create an atmosphere in which journalists would improve their professional standards, their knowledge and their influence in the way the media is run. A very urgent matter that the association needs to address is the press and publication law, currently under review by the Lower House of Parliament's Law Committee. The draft law will certainly shape the way in which journalism is practised in this country for a long time to come. Such a law should not be made to pass unless journalists had their full say in its various articles.

Journalists, whose job requires an intelligent and analytical mind, need to have their jobs secured and their terms of employment improved. That requires the association to start bargaining with the government — the owner of many media outlets — and with newspaper owners in order to improve the work conditions of its members. The association should assume its full role in this respect as the trade union of journalists.

One more issue the association should handle is that of many journalists who are not members of the association for one reason or another. Many of those journalists would very much like to join the association if it relaxed its membership conditions and upgraded its charter.

However, we recognise that not much can be achieved unless journalists themselves changed the way they look at their job and view their mission. Neither the association's new president, nor its board can accomplish much unless journalists wished and pushed for genuine reforms and for a new role for their profession. In an era where the three estates of government, the executive, the legislative and the judicial, push to assert their authority, the media, the fourth estate, must assert itself as the country's intellectual and thoughtful authority.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily Saturday commented on Yitzhak Rabin's statement about his strategy of drawing a wedge between the Palestinians and the other Arab countries involved in the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations. The paper said that Mr. Rabin hopes that the Palestinians would reach a separate deal with Israel so as to throw the Arabs into disarray prior to the coming round of talks. Mr. Rabin is claiming that there is no point in continuing the talks with Syria, as they are leading nowhere, and therefore the best solution is to clinch a deal with the Palestinians over autonomy rule, said the daily. The paper called attention to the fact that the Arab countries involved in the talks with Israel — Syria, Jordan and Lebanon — are in agreement with the Palestinians over a concerted strategy of no separate deal with Israel and on the need to see Israel pulling out its forces from all occupied Arab lands. The Palestinians are committed, said the paper, never to reach a separate deal with Israel which is occupying Arab land belonging to the Palestinians, the Jordanians, the Syrians and the Lebanese, said the daily. It said that Mr. Rabin has wishful thinking and false hopes of achieving his aim of splitting the Arabs by offering the Palestinians a separate deal and he is oblivious to the fact that the Palestinians can by no means allow such situation to materialise nor will they abandon an iota of the rights of the Arab Nation.

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i Arabic daily said Saturday that Yemen is targeted by the United States and its allies, following Iraq and Libya, and he called on the Yemeni people to stand firm in the face of the U.S. conspiracies. Fahd Al Faneek said that following the unity of the two Yemens and the discovery of oil in abundance in the Arab country, U.S. eyes have turned towards Sanaa and conspiracies are now being hatched against Yemen and its people with the hope of destabilising the state which chose to resist colonial powers' actions in the Arabian Peninsula. Yemen, with its large population, its oil wealth and its democracy, oriented government, constitutes a real threat to other totalitarian regimes in the region, said the writer. Hence, the United States, through the Saudi regime, has lately started issuing threats to oil companies trying to exploit oil near the Saudi borders under the pretext that the territory is disputed between the two countries, said the writer. He said that Yemen is also being targeted because it chose to stay away from the unholy alliance led by the United States against Iraq and because Sanaa called for the settlement of the Kuwait issue through Arab mediation efforts, the writer added. He said that Yemen and Jordan, being members of the Arab Cooperation Council, ought to maintain the highest degree of coordination and cooperation despite the absence of Egypt and Iraq for well-known reasons from this bloc, and ought to maintain the strongest possible relations that can help the people in both countries confront the common challenges posed to the Arab Nation.

Sunday's Economic Pulse

A long way to achieve adjustment objectives

THE Jordanian economy enjoyed rapid economic growth in the 1970s and early 1980s mainly reflecting the rising level of exports, workers remittances, and grants from the oil producing countries in the region. However, the subsequent downturn in global oil prices and the prolonged recession in the region led, by the mid-1980s, to reduced inflows of grants and remittances, and contributed to a slowdown in economic growth and a rise in unemployment, and thus exposed structural weaknesses in Jordan's budget and balance of payments. The authorities initially responded to those developments by maintaining expansionary fiscal policies. The large budget deficits were financed by domestic and foreign borrowing which, together with an easing of credit policy for the private sector, contributed to a fast growth in liquidity and a rapid rise in external indebtedness. However, the authorities realised the gravity of the situation and in early 1989 adopted, in consultation with International Monetary Fund (IMF), a medium-term growth-oriented adjustment programme covering the period 1989-93. Within the medium-term framework, a series of policy measures were adopted in 1989 and 1990 that served as the basis for a stand-by arrangement with the Fund, a trade and industry adjustment loan from the World Bank, debt rescheduling by the Paris and London Club creditors, and additional bilateral grants and loans.

Jordan's economic and financial performance under the stand-by arrangement was mixed in 1989. All the policy actions that were stipulated in the programme were implemented, mostly on schedule. Progress was made in improving the budgetary situation, although the overall budget deficit exceeded the programme target mainly due to higher than programmed external interest payments. The expansion in net domestic assets of the banking system and the trade deficit in the external accounts were substantially below the programme target. Moreover, larger than programmed grant receipts kept the current account deficit

including grants below the programme target and allowed the Central Bank's foreign exchange reserves to increase significantly higher than programmed.

Adjustment policies were continued in 1990 when the authorities implemented policy measures involving structural reforms, further tightening of monetary and fiscal policies, and the pursuit of flexible interest and exchange rate policies. However, a number of adverse developments during 1990 pushed the economy off track and the stand-by arrangement became inoperative. Given the strong linkages between the Jordanian economy and the economies of neighbouring countries, the adverse effects on the Jordanian economy of the Gulf crisis were substantial.

Recent uncertainties and disruptions have added to the enormity of the task of adjustment and have adversely affected the country's ability to achieve medium-term internal and external financial viability. The prospects for increasing domestic savings and investment have diminished, the burden on the budget has increased, markets for agricultural and manufacturing exports have been disrupted, and the traditional sources of external finance, including private remittances and official bilateral aid, are in a state of flux. Despite these difficulties, the authorities recognise the need to address the serious economic and financial situation facing Jordan. Consequently, they have adopted a growth-oriented, medium-term adjustment programme covering the period 1992-98. The major objectives to be attained during the period include a gradual increase in the real rate of growth to over 4 per cent by 1997; lowering the rate of inflation from 10 per cent in 1991 to below 5 per cent; reduction in the budget deficit excluding grants from about 18 per cent of GDP in 1991 to 5 per cent in 1998; and the virtual elimination of the current account deficit excluding official transfers and of the need for exceptional external financing by 1998.

The achievement of sustainable growth over the medium term would require a gradual increase in domestic savings and investment and further improvement in the efficiency of investment. Given the financial constraints faced by the government, and keeping efficiency considerations in view, the private sector would have to play an increasing role in achieving the savings, investment, and growth objectives. In this respect, the government would have to continue with the process of institutional and structural reforms, as well as the maintenance of flexible pricing, interest rate, and exchange rate policies. Measures would be required to further deregulate the economy and encourage domestic and foreign investment. Above all, stable socio-political conditions in Jordan and in the region are essential for an improvement in saving, investment, and growth performance.

A significant and sustained improvement in the budgetary situation would be needed to promote savings and investment. For this purpose, a reduction in the budget deficit of 13 percentage points of GDP is targeted between 1991 and 1998, to be achieved mainly through a reduction of about eight percentage points of GDP in current expenditures and an increase in revenue by 3.5 percentage points of GDP. The achievement of the target for current expenditures would require a reduction in nonproductive civilian and military expenditures, as well as expenditures on transfers and subsidies. The wage bill, which constitutes a relatively high proportion of GDP, will also need to be contained.

The reduction in capital expenditure would need to be kept to a minimum, in order not to jeopardise the growth prospects of the economy. The budgetary improvement will reduce its reliance on the domestic banking system which, in combination with a tight credit policy, would contain the rate of liquidity expansion at a level consistent with the inflation target.

Change in victor's mentality could have positive outcome for region's stability

Israel general election — more than a new government

By G.H. Jansen

THE general election in Israel last week could produce far-reaching changes, especially if it leads to an Arab-Israeli peace settlement. And yet the change in the voting pattern was not a landslide. The swing from right-wing Likud to left-of-centre Labour was the result of a change in seven parliamentary seats, the votes of just 80,000 people.

It is the drastic change in the mentality of the victors that is really a "landslide."

Briefly, and in simplified form, it is the younger, pragmatic, modern Israeli nationalists taking over from older, archaic, Eastern European Zionist ideologues. Symbolically, Yitzhak Rabin, the premier designate, will be the first among Israel's six prime ministers to have been born in Israel. All the others were either born in Russia or Poland, mostly the latter.

The two mentalities have coexisted in Israel society for decades. What this election revealed is that the new mentality has at last worked its way through the Israeli political system and into the parties with the result that the generation of the Founding Fathers is being pushed aside by the first generation of their political children to be born and come

to maturity in the state that the fathers founded.

What this represents is not just a generational change, though the 70-year-olds are being replaced by those in their 40s and 50s. What it represents is that Israel is emerging from the mentality of the self-enclosed ghetto, from the isolated outlook of the "shetl." The "shetl" was the town or village in the Jewish "pale of settlement," a large area in Eastern Poland and Western Russia where the anti-Semitic rulers of the area dumped the unwanted Jews in such large numbers that wide stretches of countryside and many villages and towns, and even cities, were largely or wholly populated by Jews. In fact, it is in this area that the Jewish state should, and most easily could, have been established.

In the ghetto and the shetl Jews met only other Jews and so could easily come to believe that only they and what they thought and wanted mattered. Characteristics of Israeli policy for the last 40 odd years.

It would be difficult to exaggerate the foreigners that has characterised the Israeli ruling class. When the first Knesset or parliament met after independence in Tel Aviv in

1948 the language used was Russian; and in 1991 when a Russian delegation met with the leaders of the parliamentary factions the language used was Russian.

The change over of personalities and outlook affects all parties. The successor to Rabin in Labour will not be the designated number two man, Shimon Peres, 69-years-old, born in Poland, but Avraham Burg, 37-years-old, born in Israel and a former paratrooper; and the probable successor to Yitzhak Rabin of Likud will not be the designated number two man, Moshe Arens, defense minister, a former U.S. citizen, of Latvian origin, but either Benny Begin, 49 years, or Binymim Natanyahn, 43-years, a former commando, both born in Israel, though these two men are political hard-liners.

The differences in the two mentalities are many. The younger men, unlike their elders, do not have self-enclosed minds but are open to new ideas from outside. They do not believe that the Jewish state is the centre of the universe and that the Gentile world has to recognise that centrality. They do not accept

that Gentile world is, by its very nature, hostile to Jews and to Judaism — a fundamental article of faith for people like Shamir. Nor do they act on the belief, the dogma, that everything done by the Jewish state is right and not to be questioned because the Jews are "God's Chosen People."

The end result of this approach is that the younger Israeli politicians are not strictly observant Jews and even the few who are, like Avraham Burg, want to separate Judaism from Israeli politics.

The impact of this new mentality on the political and public life of Israel has many manifestations. In internal affairs, for instance, a very sore point with the modernists is that most of the young men of the ultra-orthodox Jewish communities are exempt from the three year military service for men because they are supposed to be studying theology. At least two of the parties, including Labour, have said that this exemption should be abolished and one of the right wing parties, Moledet, proposed in its election manifesto that only those persons who had served in the defence forces should become ministers or hold important positions.

Because the Israeli electorate, and especially the immigrants from Russia, the new young voters and the Arabs, gave strong support to Labour and to Meretz, a coalition of three left-wing parties, and to Shas, a party representing oriental Jews, the reign of the Jewish ayatollahs is at an end. That is to say it heralds the end of the undue influence of the rabbis who are the "spiritual mentors" of the small religious parties who had power because they controlled a few decisive swing votes. They imposed on a reluctant majority of non-believers their own strict views on, for example, the observance of the Sabbath.

Thus, a few days before the election, Jerusalem newspapers carried a picture of two bearded gentlemen, one in the heavily embroidered uniform of a Chief Rabbi, holding telephones to their ears. This was the "latest" invention, the Sabbath telephone, which worked without making an electrical contact, because making such a contact, as in a light switch, is equivalent to lighting a fire which is prohibited on the Sabbath. The practice of observant Judaism in Israel is full of such comic absurdities.

As a result of the elections the Israeli society can become more liberal and less specifically Jewish.

Externally, the peace process and the issue of territory for peace will be greatly simplified and eased because most of the modernists do not believe that every single inch of "Eretz Israel" is the promised land given to the Jewish people by their God Yahweh, or Jehovah, and therefore never to be owned or controlled by non-Jews. Nor do they believe that this sacred, promised land should be inhabited only by the people, the Jews, to whom it was promised and no one else. Hence the modernist parties would be resolutely opposed to those Israeli parties who talk of the wholesale "transfer" of Arabs out of Israel into some neighbouring Arab state.

One of the principal founding fathers of Israel, David Ben Gurion, believed that Israel should not become a state like any other state because it was something special. The Israeli nationalists do not accept that theory. For them Israel is a Middle Eastern state that has to find its place in its area. A solid basis for enduring peace.

Libya: High price for self-sufficiency?

By Paul Eedle
Reuter

SULUQ, Libya — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi calls it a miracle and the eighth wonder of the world.

Western diplomats call it a grandiose waste of money. Libya has spent \$4.5 billion on its vast great man-made river scheme to pipe water from desert wells to farms on the coast rather than buy much cheaper desalination plants which would make it dependent on Western technology.

The Libyan engineer in charge of the first phase of the project, Othman Jauda, admits it would have been far cheaper to build desalination plants and purify Mediterranean seawater to irrigate the once-rich agricultural areas along the coast.

But he says Libya, subject of a six-year-old trade ban by the United States because of alleged involvement in terrorism, was determined not to rely on outsiders whatever the price.

"You can fill all the coast with desalination plants, I agree, but you would always have problems. The plants are not made in Libya, you would always have to go outside for spare parts," he told reporters visiting a reservoir filled with sweet water pumped from deep in the Sahara desert.

Arab oil states in the Gulf make wide use of desalination to provide fresh water for homes, factories and farms, often powering them with locally-produced natural gas.

"Maybe for the Gulf it is the right answer but for Libya, no, the great man-made river is the

answer," Mr. Jauda said.

To some extent the choice may have been forced on Libya. The best desalination technology is supplied by U.S. firms and so unavailable because of the trade ban.

The theory of the river is that although advanced technology is needed to build it, once complete it can be maintained relatively easily — at least for 50 years, after which Mr. Jauda said new wells would have to be dug and some pipes replaced.

While work continues, however, the project will be vulnerable if the United Nations Security Council tightens sanctions imposed on Libya on April 15 to press it to hand over for trial two men accused of bombing a Pan Am airliner in 1988.

Mr. Jauda said most of the building materials needed had already been imported, as had the specially-designed trucks and cranes for transporting and laying the huge sections of pipe. Buyhe added there were still 4,000 Ko-

reans working on the first phase of the project, which would take another six or seven months to complete.

If future sanctions required the Koreans and other foreign workers to leave, this would immediately hit construction.

Cost and possibly tougher sanctions are not the only problems threatening the great man-made river. Although work began in 1984 and the first water filled this reservoir last August, irrigation schemes to make use of the water are only just being built.

Members of the General People's Congress, Libya's equivalent of a parliament, challenged the secretary (minister) for agrarian reform, Abdul Majid Al Mabrouk Al Qaoud, recently to explain the slow progress and he was able to report only one irrigation scheme actually in operation.

Reporters taken to Suluq on a government tour saw large drums of red irrigation pipe standing at intervals across the ochre desert and in one place, a spray watering the sand.

Other difficulties have arisen in drilling wells. A Brazilian company, Braspetro, suspended drilling work last September, saying it had been unable to fulfil its contract because it had received incorrect specifications from the local water and soil department.

The first phase of the project, for which the overall contractor is South Korea's Dong-Ah construction company, involved laying four-metre pipelines 650 km across the desert from 108 wells near the oasis of Tazerbo and 126 wells in the Sarir area to a distribution station and reservoir at Ajdabiya near the Mediterranean coast.

The system is designed to carry a total of two million cubic metres of water a day to the coast.

From there, pipes take water 400 km west to Sirte, capital of Mr. Qadhafi's home area, and 150 km north to Libya's second city, Benghazi. Small reservoirs such as the one at Suluq store water for local distribution.

A second phase, on which Mr. Jauda said construction work had just begun, will serve Tripoli and a third phase will link phases one and two. Press reports have suggested the entire cost of all three phases could be as high as \$25 billion.

Environmentalists are divided over the impact of the vast scheme. The water reservoirs under the desert formed in the last ice age, which ended about 10,000 years ago, are not renewable.

Mr. Jauda said evaporation of water from reservoirs and irrigation schemes along the coast would have a big effect on the local climate, encouraging greater rainfall which would benefit agriculture in what was a rich farming area in Roman times but has since become steadily more arid.

LETTERS

Beat them!

To the Editor:

I MUCH enjoy the intellectual sparring between Dr. Malki and Al Faneek in their columns, concerning the merits of IMF policies. This week (July 1) Dr. Malki refers to a JD900 suit for sale in Jabel Amman, and implies that its import was a consequence of IMF restructuring. Might its obscure presence be the result of its failure to sell since 1989, a consequence of pre-IMF policy?

I have observed in the past year whilst in Amman many emperors who are no longer wearing any clothes, and now I understand why.

Indeed to quote a famous present-day Dane, their foreign minister who said last week after the Maastricht vote and just before the soccer match with Germany "If you can't join them, beat them." Perhaps that sums up Dr. Malki's approach to the IMF — they take a regular beating from him.

W.H.N. Grady,
P.O. Box 926438,
Amman.

U.S. arms for hostages probe moves into top gear

WASHINGTON (R) — Congressional investigators have moved into high gear in pursuing allegations that President George Bush was involved in the "October surprise" intrigue of trading U.S. hostages for arms sent to Iran.

Investigators in the past week have unearthed new facts, some blowing apart old myths, some deepening the mysteries surrounding the secret 1980 deal alleged to involve the campaign team of Mr. Bush and Ronald Reagan.

Significant progress has been made, congressional sources said, but months of painstaking work lies ahead. Mr. Bush strongly denies any involvement.

"They really haven't found any 'smoking guns' or big surprises. So the question is 'what next?'" said a Republican source close to the investigation.

One truth at least can be told: On Wednesday, the House of Representatives task force examining the scandal cleared Mr. Bush of allegations he attended a Paris meeting connected with the deal.

But just where he was continues to be kept secret, fuel for the conspiracy theorists' fire.

And the rest of the story remains as murky as ever.

According to the conspiracy theory, the Reagan-Bush team bribed Iran to delay the release of 52 U.S. hostages beyond the 1980 U.S. presidential election in exchange for arms and favors.

The Republican team feared Jimmy Carter would spring an "October surprise" and win the hostages' freedom just in time to clinch reelection.

Instead, Mr. Reagan defeated Mr. Carter in the November election the hostages went free minutes after his January 1981 inauguration and arms flowed to Iran via Israel.

Representative Lee Hamilton, the Indiana Democrat heading up the house probe, insists the fact that Mr. Bush was not in Paris in October 1980 "does not in itself resolve the central allegation. An awful lot of work still needs to be done."

The investigators, bogged down in endless piles of government documents and hundreds of

classified tapes, have yet to win access to all the data they want.

The FBI last month launched their third search this year for 12-year-old tapes which investigators hoped would shed light on the dealings between Tehran and the Republican Party in 1980.

FBI sources said they failed to find them.

The 19-member house team is wading through new material — taped and written in English, French and Farsi. They have conducted some 50 interviews and plan 75 more.

Reporters pressing for more details wanted to know just where Mr. Bush had been. And what of the former Israeli spy-cum-arms dealer who alleged he had been in Paris?

Ari Ben-Menashe swore under oath at a closed-door Senate hearing last month that Mr. Bush indeed attended the meeting.

Mr. Ben-Menashe was summoned to testify as part of a series of secret senate meetings, details of which were made available to Reuters on condition of anonymity.

A secret Service agent assigned to Mr. Bush 12 years ago recalled the October 1980 weekend when Mr. Bush was accused of going to Paris. But he conceded the agency's written records told a different story.

There were more misfitting facts to come.

Former Reagan aides Richard Allen and Robert McFarlane gave conflicting testimony and Mr. Allen issued documents that raised new questions about a hostage-related meeting both men attended in Washington 12 years ago.

The two top Republicans agreed on the basics of the meeting but disagreed about specifics.

"All parties are very clear about the central fact: They met a man who had a proposal on the hostages. He was not credible, it was an area they couldn't get into, and shouldn't get into," said one source familiar with the testimony.

Former Secretary of State Alexander Haig was called to the high-security Senate room, where he tersely rejected allegations of arms-tunnelling to Iran, sources said.

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One nation, different yardsticks — the story of Kurds and not only

By Pascal B. Karmy

LIKE THAT of the Palestinians, the history of the Kurds has been a record of struggle and oppression. Political manoeuvres of the great powers and the countries surrounding them frustrated their national aspirations.

Currently, the United States, Britain and France are manipulating their destiny, approaching them and their problems with different yardsticks that correspond to the interests of the West in the countries where they live. Despite their great numbers — about 20 million spread in Iraq, Syria, Turkey, Iran and the former Soviet Union — and despite their distinct racial roots and

geographic entity, the Kurds never obtained independence or statehood except for a brief time after World War I. Only in Iraq have they been granted an autonomous rule.

Comparatively speaking, the Kurds in Iraq are more fortunate than their brethren in Turkey or Iran, where the biggest concentration of Kurds exist. By an agreement reached with the Kurdish leaders, on March 10, 1970, Iraq recognised their nationalism, language and culture and granted them an autonomous regime in their region within the ambit of the Iraqi Republic.

The Iraqi Kurds enjoyed more

freedom than their brethren in the neighbouring countries. On several occasions, a Kurd became a prime minister or minister or chief of staff of the Iraqi army. Very often two or more ministers in the Iraqi cabinet were Kurds and occupied 25 per cent of government positions.

The Iraqi Kurds' problem has been lately in the forefront of the news. The Western countries have supported the Kurds' national aspirations and rights and encouraged them to hold free elections in the Kurd region of Iraq, perhaps with the sinister view of ultimate secession.

By contrast, the Kurds of Iraq number about three or four million while the Kurdish population of Turkey is about 10 million, they, therefore, deserve complete autonomy on the same equal footing as those of Iraq. Yet Turkey does not recognise the Kurds as a different racial entity from the Turks. Turkey calls them not Kurds but "Turks of the mountains."

The Kurds of Iraq are called nationalists by the West while those of Turkey are branded "rebels" or "terrorists". The Kurds of Turkey may be severely bombarded by the Turkish, American-made, war planes with the acquiescence of the Western powers (except perhaps Germany) but woe to Iraq if it attempted to take normal military measures to regain lost ground of its inalienable territory or to

bring the Kurds to the fold of Iraqi homeland.

It is true that the attitude of the West is the result of the Gulf war and of the fact that President Saddam Hussein is still in power. Nevertheless, if the United States, Britain and France are vehement in the application of the rules of democracy, and wish to encourage and support peoples to attain their national independence, or to obtain at least real or meaningful self-rule, they should not be selective in their approach. They should apply the same standard everywhere. Thus, the same yardstick should be applied to the Kurds of Iraq as well as to the Kurds of Turkey. It should also be applied to the Palestinians who count about five million people and whom the United States is still denying the right to self-

determination and consequent independence from the harsh colonial rule of Israel.

It is a truism that we are not living in a Platonic utopian world; and that the interests of the states guide their conduct and policies. But the leaders of the big Western powers, who claim to uphold the standards of democracy should refrain from branding oppressed people such as the Kurds and the Palestinians as rebels or terrorists or saboteurs when they rise in armed resistance against imperialist rule. The right of resistance and rebellion is a natural right of the oppressed and is furthermore recognised by customary and conventional international law.

The United States itself is the child of rebellion against the British colonialism in the 18th century.

Spain's top communist comes under fire

By Caitlin Randall
Reuter

MADRID — I'm a red and I'll always be a red," says Julio Anguita, Spain's charismatic communist leader.

The 50-year-old bearded Marxist is under strong pressure to soften his headline philosophy, but he ignores his critics and insists the world is slowing turning back to yesterday's doctrine. "Communism is an idea as old as humanity and still the path of the future. It will make a comeback," Mr. Anguita told Reuters.

The secretary general of the Spanish Communist Party (PCE) and the newly-elected head of the United Left (IU) coalition scoffs at those who link Spain's brand of communism with the old style Eastern bloc.

"The PCE was never a faithful disciple of the Soviet communist party and shouldn't have to assume the sins of the Soviet Union," he said.

Lately, Mr. Anguita has been more concerned with troubles at home than the uncertain fate of communism around the globe.

At a national meeting of the IU, a loose grouping of minor leftist parties with the PCE at the helm, his power base was seriously challenged by the more moderate wing of the coalition.

Although Mr. Anguita was elected coordinator of the parliamentary coalition, some analysts question how long he can hang on as IU leader.

They say the IU, like its Italian counterpart, could soon denounce its communist roots and forge a more conservative offshoot, leaving the PCE to fade away.

"If the reformist group continues to grow, I'll leave," Mr. Anguita says flatly.

The progressive wing of the IU, led by the outspoken Nicolas Sartorius, sees the alliance redefining its militant platform, establishing close ties with socialists, and supporting the terms of European unity as spelled out in the Maastricht agreement.

In many ways, it is historical tradition more than the current political climate that stands in the way of reform.

Spain's communist party emerged into the open just before elections in 1977, the country's first free polls since dictator Francisco Franco came to power 40 years earlier. As a result, the party is less linked to the evolution of international communism than other eurocommunist parties and still credited as one of the few groups to fight Gen. Franco.

Spanish communists won significant support in the 1980s — the IU more than doubled its representation in the 350-seat chamber of deputies from seven in 1986 to a current 17 — to emerge as Spain's third largest national political force.

But the United Left, formed in 1984, now appears anything but united. Already hurt by internal squabbling, it suffered a bitter blow last year when the legendary former communist leader, Santiago Carrillo, turned his back on Marx and declared communism a failure.

Spain's headlong rush to catch up with the economies of northern Europe ushered in a decade of more conservative economic policies, with only occasional

grumbings from the populace.

Since joining the European Community (EC) in 1986, Spain's economy has soared, growing an average five per cent until 1989. And while growth has slowed, it still stood at a respectable 2.4 per cent in 1991. Per capita income, meanwhile, more than doubled in the 1980s to around \$10,000 annually from \$4,800 in 1983.

The country's new-found wealth has left the IU struggling to recapture its base of support among the workers who have seen wages rise and living standards markedly improve under the socialist government.

Communists have attacked the government's Achilles heel — unemployment, which topped 16 per cent in 1991 — and vigorously backed labour unions fighting planned cuts in unemployment benefits.

Mr. Anguita is a fierce critic of Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez and the Socialist Workers Party (PSOE), saying they have brushed aside their socialist principles in the race to bring Spain in line with its EC partners.

Once the bubble bursts, he argues, Spaniards will regret their mad dash to gain economic clout at the expense of social welfare concerns.

Anguita, a former mayor of the Moorish city of Cordoba, will have a chance to test Spain's feelings about its new role in Europe when it holds elections due before October 1993.

But he must first steer the Spanish left towards his side of the political spectrum, a task that could prove more difficult than winning seats in parliament.

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'Sole assassin killed Boudiaf'

(Continued from page 1)

arrangements for last Wednesday's state funeral of Mr. Boudiaf, buried in Algiers martyrs' cemetery.

Mr. Belkheir added: "I continue to act for stability and security of this country."

The banned FIS has warned that Algeria's new leader will face renewed violence unless he restores democracy.

"The new power has the choice between two diametrically opposed paths. It can give back the people their say through freely elected representatives, or increase the cycle of violence by resorting to extreme methods," the party said in a statement Friday.

The statement, published in the front's underground newsletter, was the fundamentalist organisation's first reaction to Thursday's announcement that Mr. Kafi will head the ruling High State Council.

Mr. Kafi pledged to combat the fundamentalists in an address broadcast after being chosen council president.

Hooded gunman shot and wounded a local official in Algeria on Saturday and security forces

evacuated people from Oran city centre after an explosive charge was found.

The incidents illustrated the continued scattered insecurity in the country.

The official news agency said the official was one of the government appointees who took over running more than 400 local authorities this year when elected officials were sacked.

Most of the authorities had been run by the FIS. Many were suspected of misusing funds and facilities to promote FIS efforts to make Algeria an Islamic state.

The victim, a 35-year-old father, was shot in the stomach near his home in Boufarik, 30 kilometres south of Algiers. He was the second such official to be the target of gunmen in Boufarik.

In the western city of Oran, experts were working to defuse an explosive charge found in a plastic bag in the central branch of the state airline, Air Algérie, the agency said.

Algiers Radio said later a second bomb, planted in the sports department of Oran's newspaper Jomhuriya, exploded on Saturday afternoon.

It caused minor damage but no casualties.

Carbomb kills 3 in Jouniyeh

(Continued from page 1)

sirens wailing, evacuated casualties to hospitals in Jouniyeh as fire fighters extinguished the blaze.

Army troops and police set up checkpoints on roads leading to the seaside stadium.

Ms. Mendes was meeting with President Elias Hrawi's wife, Mona, at the presidential mansion in Beirut at the time of the blast in Jouniyeh, 16 kilometres to the north.

Ms. Mendes, 35, gained fame in Lebanon as "Raquel," the beautiful star of a Mexican soap opera, titled Tu on Nadi, Spanish for "You or Nobody."

The series was screened in winter. Raquel and Antonio, her dark, handsome husband in the

soap, have since become household names.

Newborn babies are being named after the two stars and T-shirts with their portraits are sold everywhere. Fast-food and pizza joints are being named after the couple, with menus displaying specialities such as Raquel's thyme pizza and Antonio's meat pizza.

Carbomb explosions were common in Lebanon during the 16-year civil war and continued, but on a significantly smaller scale, after hostilities ceased in October 1990.

By police count, 43 people were killed and 169 wounded in four car bombings in 1991, the last of which killed 30 people and wounded 120 in the crowded Beirut district of Basta Dec. 30.

Yeltsin assails Western demands

(Continued from page 1)

leaders in Munich next Wednesday, seemed designed to counter nationalist accusations that he was "selling out," Russia to the West.

The Russian government had first planned to release heavily subsidised energy prices this year, following the freeing of other prices in January. But Mr. Yeltsin has hesitated, fearing more steep hikes and disruption in industry.

If fuel prices, already raised by central decree, were freed, food and other prices, would rise 10 times, he said.

"Would the people hold out? They would not hold out."

"We know the mood of the people. The International Monetary Fund and Mr. Caudessus do not know the limits of the people's patience, when its faith in the president would die and when the chaos would begin," he said.

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Graf wins Wimbledon final

LONDON (Agencies) — Steffi Graf shrugged off three rain interruptions and a disappointing challenge from world number one Monica Seles to win her fourth Wimbledon women's singles title in five years 6-2, 6-1 on Saturday.

The German defending champion revived memories of her best days by creating the most one-sided final since 1983, routing Seles's dreams of completing a clean sweep in this year's four Grand Slam events.

It was the top seed's first defeat in six Grand Slam finals and, although the miserable weather diluted the occasion, Graf was in supreme command from the outset.

The match itself lasted less than an hour, but it proved a protracted nightmare for Seles. She and Graf first stepped on Centre Court at 1300 GMT but it was five and a half hours before the German world number two finally claimed her 11th Grand Slam title and the winners cheque for £240,000 (\$457,600).

Rain looked at one stage like delaying her until Sunday but, after a third delay of just under two hours, the two women returned in fading light to complete the match.

Earlier, Andre Agassi swept aside John McEnroe 6-4, 6-2, 6-3 Saturday to reach the Wimbledon final for the first time.

He'll face Goran Ivanisevic, who put on an amazing display of power serving to defeat Pete Sampras 6-7 (4-7), 7-6 (7-5), 6-4, 6-2 in the other semifinal. He had 36 aces and was never taken to deuce on his own serve.

The victory by the Croatian left-hander, who topped his tournament-leading ace total to 169, spoiled the July Fourth party and prevented the first all-

American final since McEnroe beat Jimmy Connors in 1984.

The men's matches, which had been rained out Friday, were followed by the women's final between Steffi Graf and Monica Seles. The match was interrupted by rain with Graf leading 6-2, 1-0.

McEnroe couldn't cope with Agassi's crushing service returns and pinpoint passing shots.

"It's incredible how well he's seeing the ball," McEnroe said. "It's incredible the type of shots he's capable of hitting on grass. I definitely think he could do it (win the title)."

The match lasted just one hour and 51 minutes. After McEnroe hit a backhand volley long on match point, the two embraced warmly at the net, with Agassi patting his opponent on the cheek.

The two are good friends, and McEnroe has given pointers on how to improve his grass-court game. As they left the court, McEnroe again assumed the teacher's role — reminding Agassi to stop and bow to the royal box.

Agassi said he wouldn't "insult" McEnroe by saying he felt badly for him.

"That would discredit him," he said. "This was going to be business. I hit the right shots at the right time. Things went my way and it's hard to feel bad about it."

Agassi is a surprise finalist, his game more suited to clay and hard courts than to the grass of Wimbledon. He has reached the final of the French Open twice and the U.S. Open once, losing each time.

McEnroe's run to the semis also came as a surprise. The unseeded 33-year-old New Yorker, who won Wimbledon three times in the early 1980s, says this



Steffi Graf

is his last full year on the tour.

McEnroe's serve let him down against Agassi at crucial moments. He double faulted twice on break points in the first set, and double faulted at deuce in the first game of the second set as Agassi broke.

But the key factor was Agassi's ability to step into the hall early and return to McEnroe's feet or whip it past him as he tried to rush the net.

On the few occasions when an exchange developed, the point usually ended with Agassi firing passing shots, cross-court or down the line, some kissing the chalk.

At one point in the third set, McEnroe, passed yet again, flopped onto his back and spread his arms in frustration.

Agassi was credited with 18 passing shots and six service return winners. He converted all seven break points.

The key moment in the first set — and perhaps the whole match — came when Agassi broke McEnroe for the second time to take a 5-4 lead.

Down 15-30, McEnroe hit a wide serve that most players wouldn't even have touched. But Agassi somehow got his racket on the ball, and forced to use one hand instead of his usual two-fisted backhand, flashed the ball back at McEnroe's feet for a winner. McEnroe double faulted on the next point to give Agassi the game.

Agassi served out the set in the next game, finishing with a backhand drop volley.

After McEnroe's third-double fault, Agassi hit a backhand cross-court pass to break McEnroe in the first game of the second set. McEnroe broke back for 1-1 and held for 2-1.

Agassi then won seven straight games, winning the second set and going up 2-0 in the third. When McEnroe finally ended the run by holding serve, he held up his arms in mock triumph. But he won only two more games.

The Ivanisevic-Sampras match hinged solely on who served best. The Croatian hit an ace on his first serve of the match, and finished the contest with two aces.

Sampras had 13 aces, but that paled in comparison to Ivanisevic's total.

"It came to a point I had no idea where he was going (with his serve)," Sampras said. "He has the biggest serve in the game. He's a lefty and can serve to both corners."

There were no service breaks until the ninth game of the third set, when Ivanisevic took a 5-4 lead. He broke two more times in the fourth set.

S. Korean retains WBC title

SEOUL (R) — South Korean Moon Sung-kill retained the World Boxing Council (WBC) super-flyweight crown when the referee stopped his title fight against challenger Armando Salazar of Mexico in the eighth round Saturday.

Moon, fighting for the first time in seven months, appeared to lose control in the seventh round of the scheduled 12-round bout, staggering several times under pressure from his younger opponent.

But he came back strongly in the next, unleashing a flurry of

punches before American referee Delgado Bince stepped in to stop the fight.

"I know I was impatient. The game did not flow as I had hoped," Moon said.

The two fighters went into the attack from the start and constantly chased each other to land stinging jabs and hooks. Salazar sustaining a serious cut above his left eye early on.

The victory brought Moon's total wins to 18, including 13 knockouts, against one defeat. Salazar now has 27 wins, five losses and four draws.

Krabbe plans to return to track after Olympics

BONN (R) — Sprinter Katrin Krabbe, who pulled out of this month's Barcelona Olympics after a recent doping saga, plans to run soon after the games, setting up the possibility of emotion-packed races against the medal winners.

The double world champion and German team-mate, Grit Breuer, who pulled out of the Barcelona Olympics after a doping ban last weekend, said Saturday the mental pressure of the affair had ruined any chances of winning Olympic medals.

But coach Thomas Springstein said the former east German, whose Olympic withdrawal was announced Friday, planned to return to competition in post-Olympic meetings in a bid to qualify for the World Cup in Cuba at the end of September.

"Because of the psychological pressure we have been under, we do not feel there is any chance in the short time available of getting back to the standard that would give us a real chance of winning medals in Barcelona," the athletes wrote in a joint letter to German Olympic chiefs.

But Springstein added in a press statement that the Germans still wanted to return to the track after Barcelona in what could turn out to be a dramatic end to the Olympic year. Moeller, however, is set to retire this season.

"We will use the next few weeks to prepare ourselves for the meetings after the Olympics with the aim of qualifying for the World Cup in Havana at the end of September," he said.

Krabbe and her two teammates were originally banned by the German Athletics Federation (DLV) for four years in February for rigging doping tests after they returned identical urine samples during a training camp in South Africa in January.

The affair ended last Sunday when the International Amateur Athletic Federation (IAAF) arbitration panel decided not to impose the ban on a legal technicality that the DLV could not order random tests because of a loop-hole in its regulations.

The fact, however, that the panel did not impose the ban but accepted the athletes had pro-

Krabbe, who took the 100 and 200 metres titles at the Tokyo World Championships in 10.09 seconds respectively, will need to boost her form greatly after losing her only 100 metres race of the season outdoors in a poor 11.70 seconds.

But promoters of grand prix meetings on her home soil in Cologne and Berlin and at the lucrative Zurich "Weltklasse" meeting in August will be eager to put up the money for the German to take on the Barcelona winners.

Krabbe could also meet the leading American sprinters in the World Cup team event in Havana on Sept. 25-27.

Ironically, the tall, glamorous sprinter refused a head-to-head with Jamaican rival Merlene Ottey after her victory in Tokyo. Krabbe, on Springstein's orders, wanted to gain a mental edge in the run-up to the Olympics.

Mansell back on pole in French Grand Prix

MAGNY-COURS, France (R) — Briton Nigel Mansell made short work of a drying track and the efforts of his rivals Saturday by setting a qualifying lap record to take pole position for Sunday's French Grand Prix motor race.

The World Championship leader, who had taken pole for six successive races until being usurped by old rival Ayrton Senna of Brazil in Canada three weeks ago, cut 1.2 seconds off his time from opener, qualifying Friday in his Renault-powered Williams.

He clocked a fastest time of one minute and 13.864 seconds on the 4.271-kms Magny-Cours track — well inside last year's pole record set by his Williams team-mate Riccardo Patrese who clocked 1:14.559 to take the prime grid position 12 months ago.

Patrese, who is second in the title race with 28 points to Mansell's 56, made a big effort to overhaul his rival team-mate but could not improve on a best effort of 1:14.332 to share the front row.

The McLaren of Brazilian world champion Ayrton Senna and Austrian Gerhard Berger will share the second row ahead of the German Michael Schumacher in a Benetton and Frenchman Jean Alesi in a Ferrari.

Briton Martin Brundle, in the second Benetton, and Italian

Ivan Capelli, in the second Ferrari share the fourth row.

For Mansell, it was the 24th pole of his career and his seventh of the season and gives him a perfect chance of grabbing his sixth win of the year and the 27th of his career in Sunday's 72-lap race.

If he wins, he will not only enlarge his huge lead in the Drivers' Championship, but also equal Jackie Stewart as the most successful British driver, in terms of grand prix wins, in Formula One.

Mansell, who had suffered a mishap during the morning free session when he slid off the track after trapping his foot between the pedals, was delighted to take pole again.

But he warned that a tough race lay ahead and revealed that the team were unsure which of the two cars available to him he should use for the race.

Meanwhile Brazilian Christian Fittipaldi was flown by helicopter to Nerves hospital Saturday after being badly injured in a crash during free qualifying for the French Grand Prix.

The 21-year-old driver, in his first season in Grand Prix racing, crashed heavily into the barriers after sliding off the track in his Minardi.

Fittipaldi suffered a suspected fracture of the fifth vertebra and was fitted immediately with a surgical collar before leaving the track.

USA beats Puerto Rico in basketball semifinal

PORTLAND, Oregon (R) — With seven of their players scoring in doubling figures, the United States reached the finals of the Tournament of the Americas with a 119-81 victory over Puerto Rico.

Karl Malone scored 16 of his game-high 22 points in 13 minutes of the first half.

In the final Sunday, the Americans will meet the winner of the evening's second game between Brazil and Venezuela.

The United States, who won their four preliminary-round games by an average of 56 points, jumped to a 61-34 halftime lead and were never challenged by the slower Puerto Rican.

"We wanted to run on every play," said Malone, one of seven U.S. players who scored in double figures. "No team in this tournament can keep with our pace."

Malone's former National Basketball Association (NBA) team-mate with the Utah Jazz, Jose Ortiz, scored 18 points to lead Puerto Rico, the defending Pan-Am Games champions.

But Ortiz admitted the cause was hopeless after the first half.

"What chance do you have unless

they get stuck in the locker room?" he said.

The United States shot a torrid 65 per cent from the floor, while Puerto Rico were the first team to make 40 per cent of their shots against the Americans in the tournament.

Venezuela, who scored 18 unanswered points in a dramatic second-half comeback to surprise Brazil 100-91, will be the final opponent for the U.S. team.

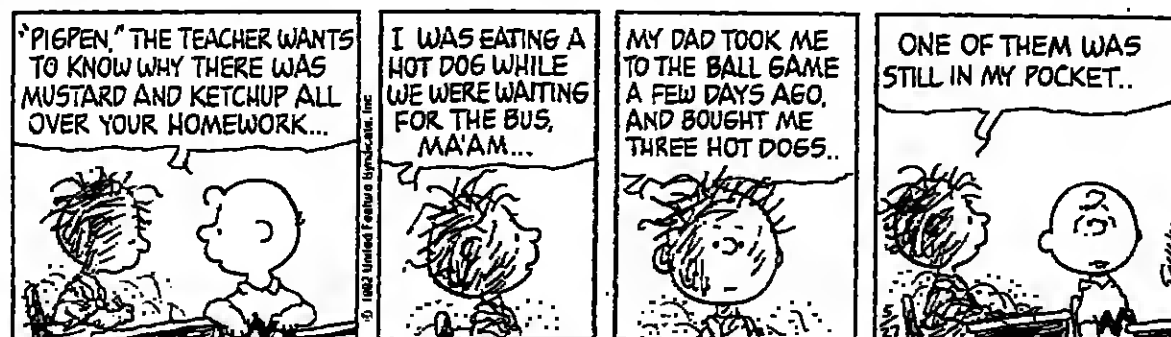
Gabriel Estaba scored 28 points and Carl Herrera added 25 in the stunning victory for Venezuela, who qualified for the Olympic basketball tournament for the first time Thursday by upsetting Canada in the quarterfinals 76-72.

Training 82-77 with 8:18 to play, the Venezuelans put the defensive clamps on one of the world's most explosive teams.

Brazil failed to score again until Maury De Souza's lay-up with 1:31 remaining made it 94-85 in favour of Venezuela.

Oscar Schmidt, whose 22 first-half points gave Brazil a 57-52 halftime lead, missed six shots in that stretch, though he finished with a game-high 36 points.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SUNDAY JUNE, 5, 1992

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: There are so many tasks to be done that you hardly know where to start with the New Moon in Moon-child (Cancer) and a Solar Eclipse as you strive to hold on to the goodwill to those individuals and concepts to which you are heavily committed.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Your practical affairs seem to be of utmost importance today but there is also the opportunity for you to have a new vision for gaining an ideal.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Think about your own personal aims and how you can devise a sensible plan to attain them while at the same time considering new systems to operate better.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Consider well your intimate desires, especially with your close attachment while listening closely to long term new suggestions from an associate.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) A day to draw a blueprint or diagram of what you want that concerns you personally and then draw up a plan for the coming weeks activities.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Consider well whatever credit or community duties require your attention and give it meticulously, later you can enjoy long time pleasure with a new comer.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September

22) Whatever you have in mind requiring an open mind is excellent now but you also will be to do what pleases members of your household as well.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You can analyse carefully your various assets and liabilities and reach a sensible conclusion after which study long accepted sources for more efficiency.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Be sure to specific promises you have made to a partner for excellent results, then you can get some material results from a long time project.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) In the morning your usual routines can be well handled in a sensible fashion after which you see ways to have the romantic enjoyments you like the most.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A fine day to arrange the entertainments and amusements that attract you while later you can retire with attachment for planning future activities.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Much use can be put into your abilities at your residence today but it is also a good day to arrange coming weeks activities with longtime friends.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Studying the details of any course of action is good whether of a personal, intellectual or business nature, then you can discuss finances with an influential expert.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



JUMBLE

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(Answers tomorrow.)

Yesterday's Jumbles: DELVE BOOTH SUPERB KNIGHT

Answer: Why couldn't he sleep after his wife left him? SHE TOOK THE BED

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(Answers tomorrow.)

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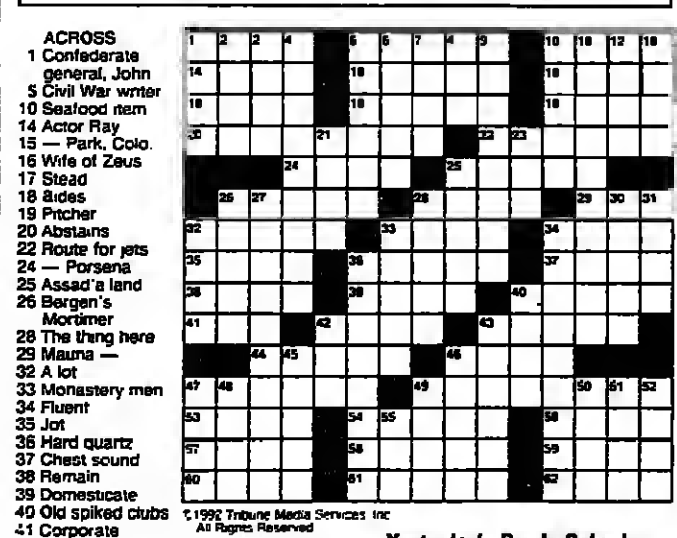
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THE Daily Crossword by Audrey J. Koch



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across: CONFEDERATE

2 Down: MONITOR

3 Across: SEAFLOOR

4 Down: ACTRESS

5 Across: PARK

6 Down: WIFE

7 Across: STEAD

8 Down: RIDES

9 Across: PITCHER

10 Down: ABSTAIN

11 Across: ROUTE

12 Down: PORSENA

13 Across: ASSAULT

14 Down: BERGEN

15 Across: MORTIMER

16 Down: THE TRING

17 Across: MAING

18 Down: LOT

19 Across: MONASTERY

20 Down: FLUENT

21 Across: JOE

22 Down: HARD

23 Across: QUARTZ

24 Down: CHEST

25 Across: SOUND

26 Down: REMAIN

27 Across: DOMESTIC

28 Down: OLD

29 Across: SPILLED

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Sarajevo fighting intensifies, but relief effort to continue

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The worst fighting in days battered Sarajevo early Saturday, leaving little hope for a quick peace despite the initial success of an international airlift.

"It's very, very disturbing," U.N. Commander Maj. Gen. Lewis MacKenzie said of the heavy small-arms and artillery fire overnight.

"It makes a farce of what we have done so far," he told the Associated Press by telephone.

Gen. MacKenzie also told the British Broadcasting Corp. (BBC) that shells had hit within 870 metres of the airport, which has become the besieged city's lifeline to the outside world. But Gen. MacKenzie said the fighting would not halt the airlift.

On Friday, European Community (EC) envoy Lord Carrington failed to renew talks between Bosnia's Serbs, Muslims and Croats, and left under heavy protection hours before fighting broke out around midnight.

Serb forces targeted the downtown area from surrounding hills and from the city's Jewish cemetery, according to Sarajevo Radio, monitored in London.

Fred Eckhardt, a U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo, said Saturday that shelling was fairly heavy before dawn, but had stopped by 8 a.m. (0600 GMT). He said U.N. officials were drawing up guidelines on when to allow aid flights to land.

The guidelines would call for no firing at or in the vicinity of the airport, he said. Under those conditions, aid could arrive even if there was shelling in other parts of the city.

Gen. MacKenzie told the AP

that neither Serb irregulars nor Bosnian government forces had fully complied with a ceasefire and agreement to report weapons positions to the United Nations. "It doesn't take a genius to see that there are weapons in the area that have not been reported to us," he said. He said more of the overnight firing had come from Serb positions.

At the height of the fighting, 15-20 shells a minute could be heard.

Lord Carrington said Friday that he saw no progress in his separate meetings with leaders of the Bosnian government and Serbs, who have fought for four months against Bosnia-Herzegovina's secession from Yugoslavia.

More than 7,440 people have died since fighting erupted after the republic's majority Muslims and Croats voted for independence Feb. 29. Backed by the Yugoslav Federal Army, the Serbs seized about two-thirds of Bosnia in an effort to form a territory that could link up with Serbia, the dominant republic in the new, smaller Yugoslavia.

Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic said he told Lord Carrington he wouldn't talk peace until a seven-day ceasefire and an international guard for all heavy artillery had been achieved.

Mr. Izetbegovic also ruled out negotiations with Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, saying, "We will not negotiate with war criminals."

There was anti-aircraft fire in one Sarajevo suburb Friday, and scattered small-arms clashes rattled through the neighbourhoods surrounding the airport. Bosnian government forces reported three

dead in the fighting.

Sarajevo's airport was a swirl of military vehicles and machinery Friday as U.N. brigades bashed to unload forklifts, plasma, combat rations and drugs from the military transports as soon as their sniper-shy pilots touched down.

U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhardt said 11 flights arrived Friday, including planes from the United States, Britain, France, Italy, Norway and Sweden.

The first U.S. Air Force C-130 Hercules from Operation Provide Promise was emptied in seven minutes. The crew was in such a hurry that two airmen were left standing on the tarmac as the huge cargo door closed. They rushed on board when the bay was reopened.

The U.S. Air Force planned to send two C-130 transports a day for 15 to 30 days. A U.S. military spokesman said no U.S. aid transports were scheduled for Saturday, the U.S. independence holiday, but that they would probably resume Sunday.

The airport had been closed by Serb forces for almost three months. Its opening Monday, with the help of French and Canadian troops, was a major boost for Sarajevo's nearly 400,000 residents, suffering from lack of food and medical care.

Some of the 1,000 Canadian troops, many redeployed from a U.N. peacekeeping mission in neighbouring Croatia, were sent to clear mines and others to secure the crucial lifeline route from the airport to the city.

Meanwhile, Milan Panic, a Serbia-born American businessman who will become premier of the shrunken Yugoslav Federation that now includes just Serbia

and Montenegro, arrived Friday in the Serbian capital of Belgrade.

"There is lot to be done," he said as he went into private talks with Serbian leaders, who seem to view Mr. Panic as an antidote to Western disgust with Serbia's role in fomenting ethnic fighting.

Yugoslavia is suffering hyperinflation and international isolation under U.N. sanctions imposed in May to pressure it to stop interfering in the former Yugoslav republics of Bosnia and Croatia. Frequent demonstrations against the government show patience is wearing thin.

The Yugoslav prime minister-designate invoked John F. Kennedy Friday as he pledged to stop the Bosnian war and bring his Balkan birthplace back to the world fold.

"Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country," Mr. Panic told reporters who pressed him about his plans to steer the country of his birth out of its worst crisis since World War II.

"Stop the war, stop the killing, stop the war," the naturalised Yugoslav-American exclaimed, when asked about his first priority as government head.

Asked if he were prepared to go to the war-wracked Bosnian capital of Sarajevo to end the carnage that has killed more than 7,000 people, he replied: "I'll go anywhere."

The 62-year-old California pharmaceutical maker seemed nearly overcome with emotion several times during a noisy news conference at the end of a 17-hour trans-Atlantic journey from New York to Budapest, Hungary, to Belgrade.

U.N. soldier seriously injured in Cambodia

BANGKOK (R) — A Thai soldier working for the U.N. peacekeeping force in northwestern Cambodia was shot and seriously wounded Thursday night, a Thai military officer and a U.N. spokesman said.

The Thai officer said Anan Trongsuwan, 27, a sergeant in an engineer battalion, was shot as he was walking back to camp from a work site five kilometres west of Sisophon, a provincial capital in northwestern Cambodia.

A U.N. spokesman in the Cambodian capital Phnom Penh said Friday that he understood the soldier was shot by government troops after driving through a checkpoint on National Route 5, which runs from Poipet, a town on the Thai frontier.

The spokesman said details were sketchy, but the man was driving in a green passenger vehicle, not a white-painted U.N. truck. He said he thought the shooting was an accident.

The soldier was taken to a hospital at Aranyaprathet, a Thai town opposite Poipet. The Thai officer said he had been hit in the abdomen by one bullet from an AK-47 assault rifle.

Thailand has sent more than 1,000 soldiers to Cambodia to help reconstruct roads and clear landmines laid by warring factions during 13 years of civil war. Seven hundred of the Thais are working under U.N. sponsorship.

Meanwhile, the radical Khmer Rouge Friday demanded the dismantling of the Phnom Penh government as a condition for their participation in the peace process for Cambodia they agreed to last October in Paris.

"Cambodia cannot be represented at the same time by the SNC (Supreme National Council) and another authority or government called state of Cambodia," the far-left group said in a statement released in Phnom Penh.

The statement followed emergency talks Thursday between the head of the U.N. peacekeepers, Japanese diplomat Yasushi Akashi, and Khmer Rouge nominal head Kieu Samphan.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

Sri Lankan troops kill 200 rebels

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops killed 200 Tamil rebels in an attack on a guerrilla position in the north of the island, a military spokesman said Saturday. He said the rebels were killed Friday when troops backed by artillery and planes overran the stronghold near Vettikalmi, an army beachhead on the Jaffna peninsula. "According to ground troops about 200 were killed. We have recovered 27 bodies with weapons," the spokesman said. Several vehicles carrying rebel reinforcements to the battleground were also destroyed, he said. No independent confirmation was available. The Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam are fighting for a homeland in the north and east for minority Tamils. Troops began an operation last Sunday to seal off the Jaffna peninsula, the separatist heartland, to stop rebel movements to the mainland.

17 killed in Indian religious riot

NEW DELHI (R) — A hardline Hindu organisation called a general strike in the western city of Ahmedabad Saturday after 17 people were killed in religious riots, the United News of India (UNI) news agency said. Most shops and businesses closed down in response to the strike call and the army was asked to stand by, UNI said. The riots erupted Thursday during the annual Hindu Chariot Festival, after reports that a procession for the God Jagannath was stoned as it passed through a Muslim neighbourhood. Eight people were killed and 80 injured in stabbing incidents or when police fired on rampaging mobs Thursday. Another nine were killed and dozens injured as rioting continued overnight Friday, UNI said. The walled city of Ahmedabad in Gujarat state has a long history of conflicts between its Hindu and Muslim communities.

Yeltsin, Snegur agree to uphold truce

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin and Moldovan President Mircea Snegur have agreed to guarantee a ceasefire stopping the bloody ethnic conflict in Trans-Dniester, news reports said. The two presidents, who met in the Kremlin for almost two hours, agreed to create a buffer zone, deploy neutral forces in the region, and create a telephone hot-line to stay in touch, the ITAR-TASS and Interfax news agencies reported. The conflict between Moldovans and ethnic Russians and Ukrainians first broke out in Trans-Dniester two years ago. It has claimed more than 500 lives in the past four months. Mostly Slavic Trans-Dniester wants to secede from Moldova, which is dominated by ethnic Romanians. The Slavs fear the newly independent republic will eventually unite with Romania, which controlled all of Moldova except Trans-Dniester before World War II. Mr. Yeltsin, Mr. Snegur and the presidents of Romania and Ukraine agreed last week in Istanbul, Turkey, to a ceasefire. But their call has not been heeded.

'U.S. to open bases to N. Korea'

SEOUL (AP) — U.S. ambassador to Seoul Donald Gregg said American military bases in South Korea would be open to North Korean inspections if the North accepts inter-Korean inspections, a news report said Saturday. "We Americans would open our military bases to North Korean inspection in return for their opening installations in the North to South Koreans," Mr. Gregg said in an interview with the national Yonhap News Agency Friday. Yonhap said he added that mutual nuclear inspections between the rival Koreas are needed in addition to ongoing inspection of the Communist North's facilities by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA). Mr. Gregg's comments would be the first time a U.S. official publicly has confirmed the opening of U.S. bases in the South for nuclear inspections, although Washington has unofficially indicated such a willingness before.

Roads in chaos as talks on French truckers protest fail

PARIS (R) — French motorists faced chaos on the first weekend of the summer holidays when a marathon attempt to negotiate an end to a truck drivers' protest collapsed early Saturday.

More than 100 roadblocks remained in place on main roads and motorways throughout the country, six days after the truckers began their action in protest against new driving regulations.

Talks between representatives of the government, transport management and unions centred on possible concessions on the way the new regulations are applied, as well as other truckers' complaints about working conditions.

The discussions broke down after more than 12 hours and union representatives said the action would continue.

The protest was starting to have serious effects on the economy. But the government said it would not use force to move the truck barricades, which have fo-

cused on truck routes to Mediterranean and Atlantic coast regions.

The government insists it will not abandon its new driving licence system, introduced this week and aimed at cutting road accidents by punishing dangerous drivers more harshly.

As the school summer vacation began, television and radio urged holidaymakers to delay their departure. The National Railway Company said it would step up services over the weekend.

Commentators were incredulous at the ability of a few thousand truck drivers to cause widespread chaos.

A cartoon on the front-page of the conservative daily Le Quotidien showed Prime Minister Pierre Bérégovoy locked in an arm-wrestling contest with a brawny truck driver.

Dozens of companies, including car manufacturers Peugeot and Renault, have laid off staff because of delays in receiving supplies.

Goebbels diaries found in Moscow archives

LONDON (Agencies) — The first complete copy of the diaries of Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda minister, has been found in Russian archives in Moscow, the Independent newspaper has reported.

In Moscow, Vladimir Kozlov, deputy chairman of the Russian Archive Committee, confirmed the discovery. "Yes, Goebbels' diaries have been found, but we haven't authorised their publication to anybody," he said.

The Independent said the diaries were discovered a few weeks ago by a historian from the Institute of Contemporary History in Munich in 92 small yellow boxes on the Goebbels shelf in the central government archives in Moscow.

The boxes contained 3-inch by 5-inch (7.6 by 12.7 centimetre) photographic plates which German historian Elke Frohlich of the institute, the world's leading expert on Goebbels, authenticated as his diaries, the paper said.

Meanwhile British government papers revealed that Polish forces plotted to kidnap Adolf Hitler's deputy Rudolf Hess after he parachuted into Britain on an abortive peace mission in World War II.

The plot by wartime servicemen stationed in Britain was disclosed when the State Public Records Office released documents on the Hess case kept secret for 50 years.

Hess, who died in Berlin's Spandau Prison aged 93 in 1987, parachuted on to the Duke of Hamilton's estate near Loch Lomond in Scotland in May 1941 to press for an Anglo-German alliance against communism. He spent the rest of his life in captivity.

The 1,500 pages of documents

portray Hess as psychologically disturbed and show he tried to kill himself shortly after his flight from Germany by throwing himself down a stairwell.

Other documents show British counter-intelligence twice alerted Prime Minister Winston Churchill to a plot by British allies to kidnap Hess from the country house in southern England where he was first held.

"Improbable though it may sound, we have more than once had evidence that certain members of the allied forces stationed in this country were hatching a plot to raid the camp and kidnap the prisoner," Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden wrote.

He told a member of the British parliament in a letter guards had been increased "not to keep Hess in but to keep the wild men out."

A Foreign Office guide to the documents said the plot was the work of Polish servicemen. It was not clear what the Poles' motive was for wanting to kidnap Hess.

Two batches of Hess case files have been made public in the past month under a relaxation of government secrecy.

Their release follows accusations from historians that the government was withholding sensitive information about Hess's mysterious mission, mounted without Hitler's knowledge and one of the most bizarre incidents of World War II.

The papers were to have been kept secret for 75 years. One document is being withheld on security grounds until 2017.

The latest papers show doctors found Hess was suffering from delusions, hysterical amnesia and paranoid psychosis. But he was not certified insane because he would then have been eligible for repatriation to Germany under the Geneva conventions.

Premiers see hope in Canada constitution talks

TORONTO (R) — Canada's English-speaking provinces Friday were on the verge of a breakthrough in constitutional talks aimed at keeping Quebec from splitting from the rest of the country.

The logjam has been temporarily broken," New Brunswick Premier Frank McKenna told reporters after leaders of the nine provinces met at the Hilton Airport Hotel.

The premiers organised the meeting, billed as a last-ditch effort by the English-speaking provinces to agree on a united front to present to Quebec in talks on the country's future.

British Columbia Premier Michael Harcourt said the leaders had come up with a new compromise to resolve the toughest issue — how to reform the Senate to give sparsely populated provinces more say in national affairs.

The new compromise, a blend of proposals, would give each of the 10 Canadian provinces eight senators, with two representatives each from Canada's thinly populated Yukon and North West Territories in the 84-member upper house.

But the system of voting would be weighted differently depending on the issue and representation in the House of Commons would be more closely linked to population.

The Senate reform question had pitted resource-rich Alberta, which says it is disadvantaged by the current system, against economic heavyweight Ontario.

Ontario and Quebec dominate the House of Commons based loosely on population.

Alberta Premier Donald Getty, who had said before the talks that he was prepared to see the whole constitutional reform founder over the Senate dispute, said afterwards that the new compromise was a step in the right direction.

"This package has the right ingredients," he told reporters. "It has the Alberta principles in it."

But Ontario Premier Bob Rae, whose province would lose some power under the proposal, said no agreement had been reached and there were still tough negotiations ahead.

He said one of his principle concerns was the relationship between the House of Commons and the Senate, as well as the Senate's ability to check the House.

Quebec's Premier Robert Bourassa boycotted the meeting, but Federal Constitutional Affairs Minister Joe Clark said he would send him a copy of the new Senate proposal.

China denies report of PoW torture

PEKING (R) — China Saturday denied a U.S. report that it subjected American prisoners from the Korean War to medical tests to see how much torture they could withstand.

The Foreign Ministry called the report issued earlier this week "totally groundless," the official New China News Agency said.

It also denied allegations that some U.S. POWs used as guinea pigs died and some others were executed from tests conducted after their capture by Chinese troops during the 1950-53 conflict.

"That particular report was totally groundless, and a sheer fabrication made with ulterior motives," the news agency quoted the ministry as saying.

China fought alongside its Communist ally North Korea, which was known to subject captive American GIs to brainwashing and physical torture.

In Washington, the White House (CIS) and Defence Department all declined to discuss the substance of a report in the Los Angeles Times Friday.

Economic news stirs fears in Bush campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — Grim U.S. economic news has stirred new worries for supporters of President George Bush's reelection.

The announcement that the unemployment rate soared in June to 7.8 per cent, its highest level in eight years, bolstered rivals' criticism of frequent Bush claims that economic recovery is on track.

"It's not good news," Mr. Bush said of the new unemployment figures, issued at a time when the White House was hoping for strong evidence of recovery.

Just a day earlier the president had proclaimed, "we're coming out of a recession, we're in a recovery now."

Vice President Dan Quayle put the administration's problem in blunt terms. With a recovering economy, the Bush-Quayle ticket "would be reelected by a landslide" in November, he said, but "the lousy economy" reflected in the latest figures "is not helpful at all" to Republican hopes of keeping the White House.

Mr. Quayle provided that analysis on a late night TV news show after a trip to Little Rock, capital of Arkansas, where Democratic challenger Bill Clinton is the governor.

Mr. Quayle had invaded Mr. Clinton's home base intending a broad-based attack on what the Bush administration calls the Democrats' "tax and spend" economic plan.

Mr. Perot kept people guessing when he would formally announce his non-party candidacy. After he didn't make it official on his birthday last

month, there was speculation the announcement would come on the July 4 birthday of American Independence — a tradition time for picnics and political and patriotic speeches.

A memorandum asking for more staff volunteers at Mr. Perot's Dallas headquarters triggered rumours that Saturday would be the day, but spokesman Jim Squires said the announcement was still "some ways" in the future.

Mr. Perot originally said he would run if his name were on the ballot in all 50 states. So far, he has gotten himself listed in 20 states.

Meanwhile, Democrats issued a convention lineup Friday that showcases almost every one of its defeated candidates, potential vice presidential picks and national party figures.

Two of the speakers, Paul Tsongas and Jesse Jackson, have yet to endorse certain nominee Clinton but they're expected to do so next week.

The host governor of the July 13-16 event in New York City — Mario Cuomo — was missing from the long list, but party officials said they were hoping he would be added to the programme.

Nomination and seconding speeches for Mr. Clinton were scheduled for July 15, the third night of the convention. Mr. Clinton and whoever he picks as vice

president will make acceptance speeches on the fourth and final night.

It was unclear who will actually nominate Clinton and make seconding speeches. Many participants were listed without specific role assignments.

Those were pending the selection of a vice president, expected to come late next week, and the resolution of discussions between the national party and the Clinton campaign.

Mr. Clinton, who has been playing his vice presidential cards close to his vest, included all four names reported to be on the short list in a pool of people to speak either the third or fourth night of the convention.

They are Sens. Bob Kerrey of Nebraska, Al Gore of Tennessee and Harris Wofford of Pennsylvania, and Rep. Lee Hamilton of Indiana. Also in that pool is Iowa Sen. Tom Harkin, who along with Gen. Kerrey competed unsuccessfully for the nomination.

Mr. Tsongas, a former Massachusetts senator who also ran and lost this year, is scheduled to make remarks on July 15 before Mr. Clinton is nominated. Also that night there will be a film honouring Robert F. Kennedy and remarks by Sen. Edward Kennedy and Rep. Joseph Kennedy of Massachusetts.

Jesse Jackson and former President Jimmy Carter are on the schedule for July 14.



A Bosnian guard fires on a Yugoslav army position during fighting

COLUMN

Manila's new mayor cracks down on nightclubs

MANILA (AP) — Manila's tough new mayor declared war on the city's flourishing sex industry, shutting nightclubs he alleged were fronts for prostitution. Alfredo Lim, a former police chief and director of the National Bureau of Investigation, was elected on May 11 on a platform of ridding Manila of its "sin city" image. During his first day on the job Thursday, Mr. Lim ordered 25 clubs closed and said "traders of flesh" — including Americans, Australians, Japanese and Europeans — should "pack up and get out, before you are carried out." Among the bars closed was the popular Blue Hawaii. Owners planned a sign saying the club was closed for "renovation."

Sen. Kennedy reportedly weds

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Edward Kennedy married Washington lawyer Victoria Reggie in a private ceremony at his suburban home, according to a television news report. The Associated Press could not immediately confirm the report. A Reggie family friend would neither confirm nor deny that the couple had wed. Fox News said Sen. Kennedy and Ms. Reggie, who announced their engagement in March, were married at Kennedy's McLean home. However, the network said there was no information on who attended. Ms. Reggie, 38, is the divorced mother of two. Sen. Kennedy, 60, has three children from his first marriage. The impending marriage had been causing a stir in Nantucket, where reporters lay siege to florists, caterers, car rental agencies and town officials in an apparently futile effort to get anyone to reveal the date and place of the wedding. Speculation has focused on the island because Ms. Reggie has a house there, as do several close family friends and her father, Edmund.

Woman conquers 7 peaks of 7 continents in 17 years

TOKYO (AP) — A Japanese woman became the first female climber in the world to conquer high peaks of every continent when she ascended the 4,884-metre Karsten Pyramid off Australia, her relatives said. Junko Tabei, 52, accomplished the feat over a period of 17 years, her father, Masanobu Tabei, told The Associated Press. Ms. Tabei became the first woman to conquer the 8,848-metre summit of Asia's Mount Everest, the top of the world, on May 16, 1975, she became the first female climber to stand atop 5,140-metre Vinson Massif, Antarctica's highest peak. She also successfully scaled Europe's Mont Blanc in 1979, Mount Kilimanjaro in Africa in 1980, Mount Aconcagua in South America in 1987, Mount McKinley in Alaska in 1988, El Brás in former Soviet Union, Mr. Masanobu said. The Karsten Pyramid lies on the island of New Guinea just off the Australian continent. Though technically it is a separate land mass, climbers consider it part of Oceania, the South Pacific region that includes Australia.

Grannies open 'wild and crazy' Arctic fete

BODO, Norway (AP) — In flowered hats or baseball caps, carrying canes or backpacks, hundreds of women arrived at an Arctic festival to celebrate the one thing they had in common: grandmotherhood. The grandmothers came by train, plane, car and boat to Bodo, a west coast port 80 kilometres north of the Arctic circle, for the three-day Grandmother's Festival. Some were out to prove they are not the bespectacled, rocking-chair riders of myth. "You want to join the festival where women are wild and crazy? where we'll practice, where we'll try to be somebody's gran-nie," some grandmothers sang in Norwegian as they welcomed a taimload of participants. The three-day programme includes parachuting, horse racing and motorcycling, concerts, hiking trips and a soccer match. Vigdis Waernes, the 46-year-old grandmother who organised the festival, said the idea of a fete for grandmothers came up last year when Bodo residents were thinking about events they could stage at a sports arena called — what else? — Grandma's Field.